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28 January 1983

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No. 2639

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DETAILS ON YACYRETA PROJECT FINANCING RELEASED

Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 9 Jan 83 Sec 3 p 3

[Text] The cost of Yacyreta, like that of any project, may be expressed in various ways. This leads to arriving at different amounts, all of which may be quite valid if it is specified, in each case, what areas they include. On the other hand, it often occurs that the same figure undergoes certain changes within short intervals. This happens when it represents a cost converted into dollars at times of fast, significant changes in the exchange rate. This is stated in the current report prepared by the Yacyreta Binational Agency (EBY).

The amount yet to be invested in Yacyreta until its completion is \$3.4 billion at current prices. This figure could change, depending on the rate of world inflation. If we estimate an inflation, or loss of purchasing power for the dollar of from 6 to 7 percent per year, that total (taking the duration of the project into account) is converted into \$4.5 billion. Hence, we have a second price, which is also correct if the hypothesis regarding inflation that has been adopted proves to be valid.

It is subsequently noted that the project will be financed with loans of different origins, the total interest on which will total approximately \$5.1 billion; although much of it is not payable immediately. Adding this sum to the previous figure, we reach the well-known amount of \$9.6 billion recently mentioned in talks with the press. The latter figure is also valid, provided we take into consideration which items it involves, and provided that the future economic situation comes close to the hypotheses adopted with regard to inflation, assumed interest rates and others, both internal and external. Incidentally, mention should be made of the fact that the inflation in the United States (on the basis of whose dollar the calculations have been made) is currently declining. If this trend should last over the next few years, all the amounts recorded in Chart I will be reduced considerably.

On it, one observes this figure of \$9.6 billion in two periods: a. before it starts generating power; and, b. after it starts generating power.

It should be explained that the aforementioned amounts as a whole do not constitute a financial effort to be confronted immediately by the entity. In fact, an appreciable portion of the interest (although legitimately earned) is associated with the updating of capital and interest from the energy funds (line 6), which the Argentine electrical sector lends to the entity and which (according to the original agreement and plan) would start to be paid only at the termination of the

project and when the 20 turbines which make up the complex are generating. Under these conditions, the real effort to be expended is reduced to that indicated in the subtotal on line 5) of the preceding chart. In short, this effort would amount to \$5.9 billion, including interest (\$4.9 billion before it generates power, plus \$1 billion after that time).

To expand upon this information Chart II shows the sources of financing planned for the most critical period of the project (\$4.9 billion), namely, the one in which Yacyreta has not yet started generating power and, as a result, it will not produce by itself funds of its own from the sale of power.

After that difficult period for the project, Yacyreta will begin generating and selling power for the Argentine and Paraguayan electrical systems, thereby creating a considerable source of self-financing. Merely by way of illustration, it would suffice to mention that, between the time when the first turbine is started (1990) and the time when the final No 20 turbine is outfitted (1993), the financial contribution from the power that has been sold will be about \$2.2 billion (in the currency of that time).

The amount to be covered by loans from commercial banks (line 6) of Chart II) deserves the following two observations: a) it is subject to changes in inverse relation to the real contributions from energy funds. In other words, the greater the genuine contributions, the less loans will be required; and, b), the amounts of loans to be arranged with other banks will be affected by the amortization and refinancing of former and future loans. The actual detailed financial activity in this respect is subject to the changes in other financial factors.

Finally, the EBY report notes that, in the aforementioned sums, the previous investments which totaled \$932 million without interest as of 31 December 1981, were not included. That ostensibly high total (and we must not detract importance from it for this reason) has the understandable size stemming from investments made during periods of an undervalued dollar.

Chart I (millions of dollars)

Amount Lacking Until Completion of the Project (at July 1982 prices)

	Total Amount	Partial Amounts	
		a) before start- ing power genera- tion	b) after start- ing power generation
1) Cost	3,400	3,100	300
2) Possible addition due to dollar depreciation	<u>1,100</u>	<u>900</u>	<u>200</u>
3)	4,500	4,000	500
4) Interest on loans	<u>1,400</u>	<u>900</u>	<u>500</u>
5) Subtotal	5,900	4,900	1,000
6) Interest on energy funds including updating of capital	<u>3,700</u>	<u>2,200</u>	<u>1,500</u>
7) TOTAL	<u>9,600</u>	<u>7,100</u>	<u>2,500</u>

Chart II (millions of dollars)

Financing Until the Start of Electric Production:

1) Requirement (see Chart I, line 5)	<u>U.S.\$4.900</u>
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Financing:

2) Argentine energy funds	U.S.\$2.580
3) Credit from IDB plus World Bank	U.S.\$ 420
4) Credit from imported goods	<u>U.S.\$ 600</u>
5) Subtotal	<u>U.S.\$3.600</u>
6) Credit from other banks	<u>U.S.\$1.300</u>
7) TOTAL	<u>U.S.\$4.900</u>

2909

CSO: 3348/163

CONSTRUCTION PLANS ON IGUAZU BRIDGE SET IN MOTION

Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 9 Jan 83 Sec 3 p 7

[Excerpt] The pertinent studies were begun in 1971, when the construction of this bridge was discussed in the deliberations of the eighth meeting of the Special Brazilian-Argentine Coordinating Commission, which met in this capital from 22 September to 8 December of that year.

On 15 March of the following year, the project was decided upon, with the signing of the pertinent international legal instrument in Brasilia, on the occasion of the visit by the then president of the nation, Lt Gen (ret) Alejandro A. Lanusse.

The project was delayed because of various obstacles until 8 August 1976, when an agency created by the governments of the two countries and Paraguay signed an agreement with the Institute for the Integration of Latin America to conduct a study on tourism development in the international area of Iguazu and the Jesuit Missions.

On 17 May 1980, when the president of Brazil was visiting Buenos Aires, the respective reverse notes were signed, creating the Binational Commission, which is responsible for all matters relating to the implementation of the project.

In October of that year, the call for bids was made for the selection of consulting firms to make the pertinent study and the detail design for building the bridge, its accesses and supplementary structures.

The selection was made of the Argentine-Brazilian consortium Consulbaires-Figueiredo Ferraz-Etel, and on 6 March 1981 the respective contracts were signed. They were approved a year later upon the visit to Brasilia of the former minister of foreign relations and worship, Nicanor Costa Mendez, who signed the pertinent reverse notes with the Brazilian foreign minister, Ramiro Saraiva Guerreiro.

The Plan

The award was made on 12 November of last year, and the contracts were signed on 16 December, specifying that the bridge would be located 2.9 kilometers upstream of the Iguazu River's outlet into the Parana, and 1,700 meters upstream of the present site of the ferry and barge crossing, called Puerto Meira, in Brazil.

The intersection with Brazilian highway BR-469, in Brazilian territory, is located in the vicinity of the Hotel Carima, in Puerto Meira, and the intersection with

national highway No 12, leading to Puerto Iguazu, is located in the vicinity of the National Directorate of Roads encampment. It is stipulated that the necessary construction materials are to come exclusively from the two countries, and that the period for execution of the work must be 22 months, starting on 13 January.

The Bridge

The bridge, which will make it possible to cross the Iguazu River, will be 480 meters long, consisting of three sections measuring 130, 220 and 130 meters, on two buttresses over 50 meters high, with two abutments at the ends; while the total width of the panel will be 16.50 meters, for a paved road measuring 13.30 meters, with two sidewalks of 1.20 meters, plus two New Jersey type protectors, each occupying 0.40 meters at their base.

The superstructure is a unicellular section continuous beam, of precompressed concrete, to be made using the consecutive cantilever method, without a connection in the central section, and joined monolithically to the buttresses.

The driving surface of the paved road will be of concrete, and the construction of this bridge will require approximately 16,000 cubic meters, half of which will be absorbed by the superstructure.

The Accesses

Insofar as the accesses are concerned, they will have a total length of 4.78 kilometers, 2.68 kilometers of which will be located on Argentine soil; while the cross-section includes two traffic lanes, each measuring 3.65 meters, and two shoulders 3 meters in size, measured from the intersections with the routes to the headwall of the bridge.



El emplazamiento de la obra

Map: The Site of the Project

2909

CSO: 3348/163

CANADA OFFERS TO BUILD OIL PIPELINE

San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 22 Nov 82 p 6-A

[Text] Engineer Alberto Fait Lizano, first vice president of the republic, reported that the government received a definite offer to build an inter-oceanic oil pipeline from Canadian consortium.

The official added that Luis Alberto Monge, the president of the republic, had authorized him to designate a commission to study the possible installation of that facility. That commission should include leaders of the Society of Biologists, universities and conservationist groups, as well as deputies of the various parliamentary factions.

According to Fait's statements, the Canadian consortium that made the offer promised that it will do everything, that 85 percent of the personnel will be Costa Rican, that it will construct hospitals and homes for its employees, and that it will give the country a daily bonus of 6,000 barrels of petroleum, which is approximately half the national consumption.

Fait stressed that the oil pipeline will transport about 500,000 barrels daily. He noted that the investment the Canadian enterprise will make is estimated at \$484 million, which will include the construction of ports in the Pacific and the Atlantic. The vice president did not discard the possibility that two other oil pipelines could be installed in the country.

He reported also that the project of the installation of the oil pipeline will be sent to extraordinary sessions of the Legislative Assembly that will start on 1 December. He said also that if Congress gives a green light to the construction of the facility, it cannot be awarded directly but must be opened to bidding in which companies that wish to participate can do so.

Fait said that the project of the oil pipeline is within the framework of the government's policy that seeks to develop an economy of services and investments. That course of action will produce, according to the vice president, dollar revenues without the need of indebtedness. As in the case of the oil pipeline, this principle will give an impetus to free zones, tollage and tourism, as well as to the Hydrocarbons Bill that will make it possible, Fait asserts, for oil explorations to be made by private enterprise.

8414

CSO: 3248/357

PETROLEUM EXPLORATION EXTENDED TO SAN CARLOS

San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 22 Nov 82 p 4-A

[Article by Luis Rojas Coles]

[Text] San Carlos--The Costa Rican Oil Refinery (RECOPE) expanded its petroleum explorations to various areas of the San Carlos Canton. Although the surveys were started about 5 months ago, it was not until last Saturday that officials of that entity announced it.

National technicians, advised by experts of Mexican Petroleum (PEMEX), are participating in those explorations, and it was reported that the results to determine the presence of hydrocarbons could be made known in 18 months.

At present, RECOPE, also with the aid of PEMEX, is drilling in the Baja Talamanca area in the Atlantic region of the country. Those surveys are in their crucial stage, and according to the technicians, the drilling has already reached a depth of 2,700 meters. From 2,140 meters down, the project control units monitor for and detect gas emanations that could be an important clue to finding petroleum.

If no results are obtained at 3,200 meters, the drilling will go on to 6,000 meters in search of at least another stratum of the earth's crust that can store the precious liquid.

According to the explanations of the RECOPE technicians, geologist Alvaro Aguilar, and geophysics expert Manuel Corrales, the studies made to date in the San Carlos region encompass an area of 1,000 square kilometers. They asserted that some surveys have been made, particularly of soils, in locations such as Guatuso, Monterrey, Pital, Arenal, Chaparron and Cedral Sur, where it is presumed that there are horizons containing gas, oil and coal.

Aguilar explained that the aforementioned places are of interest for possible exploration, and that preliminary surveys were made more than 30 years ago by foreign companies "that hit some spots of this region." At the same time, he explained that some 6,000 mobile stations have been installed that basically take care of making studies of the earth's crust.

The Reasons

When explaining the reasons for starting the preliminary surveys in San Carlos, geologist Aguilar and Corrales said that there is a certain similarity between the geological characteristics of that region and of Baja Talamanca.

In San Carlos, what the experts call "seepages" have been found with the aid of the local inhabitants in some of the streams, in which it was verified that the presence of oil and coal is particularly evident. These traces of hydrocarbons, according to the technicians, are similar in places such as Pataste de Vanado, Pital and Chaparron.

Unique Place

In a visit made to Pataste de Vanado, a place located 90 kilometers north of Ciudad Quesada, it was confirmed that there are large quantities of coal and oil in a small brook. Some tests were made there, as for example, putting matches to some rocks that immediately burst into flames.

According to the stories of a number of inhabitants of the place who discovered that "seepage" for some time now, a number of people have been using some kind of fuel from the brook for minor purposes, such as fueling lamps.

"The foregoing does not mean that the existence of petroleum in that place is evident," asserted geologist Aguilar. He added that, logically, various surveys will have to be made in order to determine precisely whether there are any hydrocarbons.

Equipment

Up to now, gravimeter equipment--used as a sort of X-ray--has been used to study the various strata of the crust. Devices considered to be the most modern in that field are also available to determine distances between survey sites with more accuracy.

Approximately 20 national experts participate in these surveys. As to the cost of the studies, geologist Aguilar said that they do not have the estimate, and that that aspect is handled directly by RECOPE officials.

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CSO: 3248/357

TWO 20-MEGAWATT GENERATORS TO BE BOUGHT FROM JAPAN

Bridgetown SUNDAY ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 19 Dec 82 p 3

[Text]

KINGSTON, Jamaica, Saturday (CANA) — Jamaica is to buy for its ailing power company, two 20-megawatt diesel generators from Japan through a special loan facility from that country's Government, Prime Minister Edward Seaga, has announced.

Mr. Seaga, speaking in Parliament on Thursday night, did not say from which company the generators will be bought and neither did he give the cost.

But he said that Jamaica was getting "extraordinary concessional terms" for the Japanese loan, including a seven year moratorium and an interest rate of 2½ per cent over 25 years.

Jamaica Public Service Company (JPS) officials were unable to expand on Mr. Seaga's statement.

Jamaica has a serious electricity problem, and though the company has theoretical capacity of 440 megawatts there are frequent power outages here, causing loss of thousands of man

hours.

The JPS is now undertaking a major refurbishing programme and only last month asked the Canadian branch of the American company, Foster Wheeler, to withdraw after it had gone well past the deadline for repairing an 68-megawatt generator.

The job was handed over to General Electric.

Mr. Seaga said that the two plants to be bought from Japan, a 25 megawatt power barge on loan from the United States and a special system being worked out with the cement company, which has its own generators, will provide the island with an additional 80 megawatts of power in addition to existing capacity.

"I believe that we are near the end of the road now and that 1983 will not be a year in which we shall have to see what we experienced in 1982 by way of power outages", Mr. Seaga said.

CSO: 3298/284

OWTU RENEWS CALL FOR NATIONALIZATION OF OIL INDUSTRY

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 25 Nov 82 p 24

[Text]

THE OILFIELDS Workers' Trade Union (OWTU) has reiterated its call to nationalise the oil industry.

The General Council of the union, in its report to the 43rd annual conference of delegates which continued last weekend echoed the "nationalisation of the oil industry" call.

The report provoked lengthy and high-level debate before being accepted. It expressed the hope that "this year's conference will be the last occasion in which the OWTU will have need to issue the call for nationalisation of the entire oil industry and people's ownership of our national resources."

The conference of delegates was adjourned to January 13, when the budgetary proposals for the new term would be discussed.

The 91-page report presented to the conference that started on Saturday November 6, in the introduction stated that the

term under review — November 1981 to October 1982 — began "in the relative calm that is usually the forerunner of the always unpredictable storm."

THIEF IN NIGHT

It added "our conference today convenes in the full cry of a retrenchment exercise mounted by the employers (including the Government) as a means of muddling through the current economic crisis that has overtaken Trinidad and Tobago and the rest of the capitalist-imperialist world. To many of our nationals, the crisis has come as a thief in the night."

"To us in the OWTU it has not." For ever since 1973 when Dr. Trevor Farrell alerted us in his lecture, the 'Economics of Discontent,' we in turn have been trying to alert the rest of the community to the chess game that the international oil companies had been playing.

CSO: 3298/199

TTEC OFFICIAL INTERVIEWED ON CURRENT OUTAGES, PRODUCTIVITY

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 26 Nov 82 p 20

[Text]

ALL AREA outages which occurred during the period of industrial unrest at the Trinidad and Tobago Electricity Commission (TTEC) have been repaired. This statement was made by the Commission's Public Relations Officer, Mr Roy Mitchell, in reply to a number of questions raised by the "Guardian".

The list of questions was delivered in writing to the TTEC's head office at 63 Frederick Street, Port-of-Spain, on Monday, November 15 at 2.30 p.m. and the replies reached the "Guardian" on Wednesday.

The questions were asked in an effort to get the position of the Commission on several issues.

The following are the questions and the respective answers:

QUESTION: What is the present situation at the Port-of-Spain "B" power station? Last we heard unit No 2 was undergoing repairs and another of the four units was also scheduled for maintenance work. Have these been completed and are the units back on stream? What is the capacity of each unit and how much is each doing at present? Are any of the units to be phased out or replaced?

ANSWER: There are now three units in service at the Port-of-Spain "B" power station — the No 3, 80 megawatt and the No 4 80 megawatt units and the No 1 50 megawatt unit which has just been brought back into service. The No 2 50 megawatt unit is out of service undergoing minor maintenance. This unit is expected to become available for use

shortly. There is no immediate intention of phasing out or replacing these units.

ALL IN OPERATION

QUESTION: Also at the Port-of-Spain "B" power station, how have the dismissed workers been replaced? Has the number of personnel per shift been changed to cope with the loss? Who are doing the work of the dismissed men?

ANSWER: The dismissed workers have not all been replaced but shift personnel have been redeployed to operate the available units.

QUESTION: What is the situation at the Penal power station? Are all units working to capacity?

ANSWER: All the available generating units at the Penal power station are in operation.

QUESTION: And at the Point Lisas power station how many units of the ten are working at present? Are any in the process of being commissioned? Of those that are in operation, are they working at full or reduced capacity?

ANSWER: Of the eight fully-commissioned units at Pt. Lisas, six are in service. The other two are undergoing repairs. Installation was com-

pleted this year on two other units and these are currently undergoing design changes under warranty by the manufacturers.

QUESTION: What caused the fault in the transmission line at Point Lisas earlier this month? The inclement weather was quoted as being a contributory factor. Have investigations proved this?

What happened?

ANSWER: Yes, investigations have proved this. The details of the train of events associated with the inclement weather will require the use of technical language which we prefer to avoid. We can, therefore, say that a series of faults developed on our transmission system which have all since been corrected.

QUESTION: Reports have reached this newspaper that the TTEC overworked the system during the "industrial unrest" and that this contributed to the fault and the subsequent fire at the Barataria sub-station. Is there any truth in this allegation?

ANSWER: There is no truth in the allegation and there was no fire at Barataria.

QUESTION: Have workers been turning out in full force? How have they been performing? Are they "withholding enthusiasm" or fulfilling their duties? We have had reports of maintenance and distribution crews reporting to "trouble calls" or "local prob-

lems" and not doing their jobs. Is the TTEC aware of this? What is your position?

ANSWER: Workers have been turning out in their traditional numbers but reports indicate that their level of productivity is far below standard. We have received reports from customers of crews appearing on the site of jobs but not going into action. These reports are being investigated.

QUESTION: What are the areas that are still without an electricity supply arising out of the "industrial dispute"? What is the forecast for these areas?

BACKLOG OF TROUBLE

ANSWER: All area outages which occurred during the period of industrial unrest have been repaired. There is still, however, a backlog of trouble reports affecting individual or small groups of customers which are being attended to.

QUESTION: What is the latest on the street-lighting project? How is it progressing? Are any concessions to be made to the union's claim that TTEC workers should be given these jobs?

ANSWER: The street lighting programme is progressing but not as speedily as desired. A greater effort from our workers would help and we are working on this. We are hopeful that the lights now being installed will become operational before the end of the year.

TEXACO-GOVERNMENT TALKS CONTINUE; REFINERY OPERATIONS CUT BACK

Texaco Comments

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 26 Nov 82 p 1

[Article by Mikey Mahabir]

[Text] TIME is running out for Texaco Trinidad Inc. operations in this country and the American-based multi-national wants to settle its position quickly with Government.

That was the gist of a message, Mr George Weekes, president of the Oilfields Workers Trade Union, said he was given by Texaco's general manager, Mr Lloyd Austin.

Mr Weekes believes that Mr Austin is under pressure from Texaco's New York office to settle a deal with the Trinidad and Tobago Government.

Texaco, however, said it was still holding talks with Government officials over its refinery operations at Pointe-a-Pierre.

Last week, local Texaco officials along with senior government officials, including two people from the Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources, met Texaco executives in New York.

This country's representative to the United Nations, Mr Doddridge Alleyne, also sat in at the meeting.

The teams are to meet in Port of Spain on Tuesday morning.

Over the past weeks, operations at the refinery, the largest in the country took a nose dive--throughput dipped from 80,000 barrels per day (bpd) to 70,000 barrels and 31 of 38 refining plants were shutdown.

When asked for comment the company said:

"Texaco has held discussions with various government officials concerning its refinery operations in Trinidad and while these discussions are in progress it wishes to make no further comment.

"The company's throughput remains at 70,000 barrels per day at which rate it has been for several weeks."

Latest unconfirmed report stated that the company's reserved stocks of local and foreign crude is running low. It could not be ascertained whether the company has any foreign shipments of crude on order.

It is understood that Texaco has some 38 plants at Pointe-a-Pierre but at the moment only seven are in running operation--the mighty cat cracker, which produces most of the gasoline, aviation fuel, kerosene, and cooking gas (LPG), among other things, is still operating.

The OWTU is pressing for local ownership of the Texaco refinery. The union wants Government to buy out the operations. "The workers are confident that they will be able to run the refinery," said Mr Weekes.

The union held a COSSABO (conference of shop stewards and branch officers) on Wednesday afternoon at Paramount Building, Circular Road, San Fernando, and discussed at length the situation at the Pointe-a-Pierre refinery and Trinidad and Tobago Electricity Commission.

Following the meeting a decision was taken to hold a day of solidarity demonstration in Port of Spain on December 11, at a venue to be announced.

Apprentice Layoffs

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN In English 27 Nov 82 p 1

[Excerpt] SOME 90 apprentices and trainees of Texaco Trinidad Inc. were handed termination letters yesterday allowing them one week to conclude their duties.

The letters stated that the effective date for the termination of their service is Saturday, December 4.

Company officials yesterday confirmed that the letters had been given.

"Because of severe financial losses incurred by our company we have today been forced to terminate all our apprenticeship and other training programmes," a statement said.

Halt to Crude Imports

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 27 Nov 82 p 1

[Article by Mikey Mahabir]

[Text] TENSION is mounting at Texaco's Pointe-a-Pierre refinery. The company disclosed yesterday that it has no plans for the further importation of foreign crude. The last shipment of 270,000 barrels of crude was received on November 13.

However, up to yesterday the refinery was still running at 70,000 barrels a day throughput. Asked whether the company was moving to buy local crude to keep the refinery running, a spokesman gave no response.

It is now almost a certainty that the throughput is going to take a steep dive within a day or two, said a reliable source.

It is reported that the storage of foreign and local crude at Pointe-a-Pierre is now at an all time low and when asked to comment on this, the company preferred to remain silent except to confirm that the refinery continues to run at a throughput of 70,000 barrels a day.

Asked to comment on plans for retrenchment in view of the low throughput, the company said, "We are not aware of any retrenchment of workers at this time."

Normal Flow

A check revealed that gasoline, kerosene, cooking gas, among other products, are still flowing normally.

It was reliably learnt that the local crude cannot produce in sufficient quantities such products as aviation jet fuel, kerosene, liquified petroleum gas (LPG) and lubricant oil.

About two weeks ago Texaco purchased two shiploads of crude from one of the local companies but this has already been used up. And since the company has no plans to import foreign crude at the moment, oilworkers are becoming very uneasy as regards their present and future employment.

Move by Texaco Trinidad Inc., to terminate the services of some 93 apprentices and trainees at the Pointe-a-Pierre refinery is one of several matters to be discussed between the company and the Oilfields Workers' Trade Union.

Discussions will take place tomorrow at the Ministry of Labour where the parties are due to meet at 10 a.m. at the invitation of the company.

Mr. George Weekes, president of the union, said that the company wants to discuss matters relating to the future of its operations.

"We are going to listen to them and at the same time bring up other matters such as the issue involving the apprentices and trainees," Mr. Weekes said.

The company last week handed letters to the apprentices and trainees terminating their services from Saturday, December 4.

Texaco blames severe financial losses for its action.

Further Drop in Output

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 2 Dec 82 p 1

[Article by Mikey Mahabir]

[Text] THE PETROLEUM industry in Trinidad and Tobago seems to be heading for a chaotic situation as Texaco Trinidad Inc. yesterday morning dropped its refining throughput to 50,000 barrels per day (bpd) and a further drop is expected shortly, it was learnt.

And with Trinidad and Tobago Oil Company Limited (Trintoc) saying that it is "unlikely" that would be able to meet local demands for petroleum becoming alarming, oilworkers observed yesterday.

Up to Tuesday night the throughput at the Texaco refinery was 70,000 barrels a day.

The Texaco refinery has a maximum throughput capacity of 355,000 barrels a day.

The company said recently that it spend over \$500 million over the last five years in investments and maintenance. On Tuesday, through a circular to employees, Texaco said that while it is true that the company is operating under severe financial difficulties no decision had been taken in respect of a refinery shutdown.

To Give Answers

A check revealed that up to yesterday the refinery was still operating. The cutback in throughput took place hours before the company was due to meet at the Ministry of Labour with the Oilfields Workers' Trade Union and Government to discuss its future operations in Trinidad

The parties are to meet again on December 14 at the Ministry of Labour. At that time the company will give answers to questions raised by the union in connection with the company's school, the proposed reduction in the retirement age from 65 to 60, and other matters related to the refinery.

The company informed the union, through the Minister, Mr. Errol Mahabir, that it had stopped importing foreign crude and about the drop in throughput to 50,000 barrels a day.

More and more tension is mounting at the company's operations with workers continuing to hold spot meetings discussing both the company's future and their personal future as regards continued employment.

However, Trintoc has been examining the possibility of upgrading its refinery which will easily be able to supply all local demands of petroleum products, when the programme is completed, a Trintoc official said.

The company produces motor gasoline, kerosene and some aviation fuel among other things, all of which are being distributed by National Petroleum Marketing Company Limited.

Asked whether Trintoc manufactures liquified petroleum gas (LPG)--cooking gas--the spokesman said, "not at the moment," but if asked by the shareholders to do so, the refinery had the capacity and capability of making the gas.

The Trintoc refinery throughput runs between 55,000 barrels and 70,000 barrels a day and the manufacture of products is tailored to meet demands, it was learnt.

On the question of LPG, Texaco Trinidad Inc. is the sole manufacturer of the product in the country.

Flow Continues

With Texaco having no order for foreign crude, it was learnt that the local crude cannot produce the gas as well as aviation jet fuel and lubricating oil to meet demands.

Question is: Can government-owned Trintoc come to the rescue of the country should Texaco's throughput continue to drop or should the company decide to halt further refining for the time being.

A Trintoc spokesman said that Trintoc has never been required to supply the total local market of petroleum products. "If we are called upon suddenly to do so it is unlikely that we will be able to meet the demands for the petroleum products which are required nationally."

Up to yesterday the supply of petroleum products by Texaco and Trintoc continued to flow as usual. National Petroleum Marketing Company Ltd. is the sole distributor of the products.

A check revealed that Texaco Trinidad Inc. supplies about 85 per cent of the motor gasoline used in the country. Consumption of motor gasoline is to the tune of an average of nine million gallons a month.

Drilling Rig Shutdowns

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 4 Dec 82 p 1

[Text] SAN FERNANDO--TWO OF the drilling rigs of Texaco Trinidad Inc. have suspended operations and are now undergoing normal maintenance overhaul.

However, Textrin is continuing its drilling activities in Barrackpore and is proceeding with its normal work over activities.

In addition, Textrin is continuing to process crude on behalf of Trinidad and Tobago Oil Company Limited (Trintoc). It is not known how much crude is being supplied or the regularity taken to the Pointe-a-Pierre Refinery.

Amoco Trinidad Limited, when contacted, said that no recent requests had been made by Texaco for the supply of crude. In fact Amoco has never supplied Texaco with crude, said an Amoco official yesterday.

'No Way'

A report from the Oilfields Workers' Trade Union said that Texaco was also getting crude from Trinmar but this could not be confirmed.

The OWTU, through its Pointe-a-Pierre branch, said that Texaco made a 200 million profit last year and because the profit fell this year to \$175 million, the company wants the workers and the country to pay for that \$25 million drop.

"We say, no way: You make all the decisions and the profits, you must accept the inherent risk," said the "Eye opener", the branch bulletin.

The newsletter said that perhaps the company should address itself to more meaningful ways of saving money.

LPG Supply

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 4 Dec 82 p 1

[Text]

SAN FERNANDO:

TEXACO Trinidad Inc. is producing 50 per cent of the liquified petroleum gas (LPG) also known as cooking gas at its Pointe-a-Pierre refinery.

The remainder is being brought in by National Petroleum Marketing Company from foreign sources to satisfy NP's sales.

That was disclosed yesterday by Texaco when asked to comment on the LPG situation which the company produces exclusively.

It is understood that an average of 233,000 pounds of LPG is consumed daily in Trinidad and Tobago. A check revealed that to date there is no shortage of the product and housewives in particular are going about their business undisturbed, at least for the moment.

With Christmas around the corner there is definitely going to be an increase in the use of the product.

Impact on Service Companies

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 6 Dec 82 p 1

[Article by Evans K. Greene]

[Text]

SERVICE companies have expressed grave concern over their future owing to production cutbacks by Texaco (Trinidad) Incorporated which has now called on all contractors to "demobilise" out of the Pointe-a-Pierre refinery.

Workers have also expressed great concern. Many workers are taking sick leave, especially those who believe it is only a matter of time before they are retrenched.

According to a senior Government official, the service companies may have reason for concern because they are not sure whether Texaco would stay on or quit sometime next year.

If Texaco continues next year, no one is certain of the level of production and whether the service companies would be able to maintain employment levels.

It was reported that a Texaco representative from the U.S. was expected in Trinidad to meet with the Inter-Ministerial Committee headed by Labour, Cooperatives and Social Security Minister Errol Mahabir for discussions on the future of the company.

Members of the Committee were not available for comment yesterday, but it is understood that the discussions will be held this week.

UNCERTAINTY

Texaco is considering proposals resulting from the meeting held by the Minister relating to the pension plan. It is proposed that the compulsory retirement age should be reduced from 65 to 60.

Texaco and the Oilfields Workers' Trade Union (OW-

TU) are expected to meet again at the Ministry of Labour, Cooperatives and Social Security on December 14.

The Texaco refinery is down to 50,000 barrels of crude per day — its lowest ever, with the same labour force being maintained. At one time the refinery processed 350,000 barrels per day.

Uncertainty was expressed about the future of Trinidad Tesoro Petroleum Company. Talks are being held for Government to acquire the 49.9 per cent of the shares held by the Tesoro Petroleum Corporation of San Antonio, Texas.

A Government official said that the Trintoc refinery lost money this year. Trintoc's credit-worthiness was still good and the company might very well be able to raise money from the banking sector, he added.

According to the official, the only bright light on the horizon is Trinmar, since its 1983 budget has already been approved. Trinmar is likely to start drilling on Platform 24 in the Gulf of Paria. This operation was delayed owing to a problem which developed earlier in the year.

The official said drilling had already started at Trinidad Tesoro's East Coast Trintex D Platform.

In the case of AMOCO, there appeared to be no problem and the level of activity next year should be acceptable, he included.

January Closing Deadline

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 7 Dec 82 p 1

[Article by Mikey Mahabir]

[Text] SAN FERNANDO--TEXACO Trinidad Inc. has reportedly told the Oilfields Workers Trade Union that the company cannot see itself operating further than the end of January 1983 under the present circumstances.

According to an OWTU spokesman, the company has stated several conditions under which it will be prepared to continue operations.

Texaco yesterday admitted to union officers that the company has offered to sell or lease the Pointe-a-Pierre refinery to Government.

This was revealed to the "Guardian" by a spokesman for the union's nine-man team which held talks with the company, headed by Mr. Lloyd Austin, General Manager.

The meeting was held in Mr. Austin's office at the administration building, Pointe-a-Pierre and lasted about four hours.

The union spokesman said they were told by the company that Government's ministerial team is at the moment studying the company's offers, including valuation of plants and equipment.

But according to the tone of the discussions, the union officers came to the conclusion that the company is pushing ahead for Government to buy out the refinery quickly.

The union men learned that the future of the company now lies in the hands of Government. According to the spokesman, the company indicated that it would keep the union informed of developments.

Texaco told the union officers, according to the union spokesman, that they cannot see themselves operating further than the end of next month (January 1983) under the present conditions.

The union men were also told that if the refinery has to shut down, the company will keep the producing fields in operation.

Asked what Texaco needed to make the company viable and prevent a shut down, the company told the union, that they want a change in the tax structure with equal treatment as the other companies operating in the country, among other things.

Texaco also wants a reduction in the price charged for natural gas which they bought from the National Gas Company. In addition, the company must reduce the retirement age from 65 to 60.

Further Texaco wants the Government to supply 30,000 barrels of crude per day to assist in the supply of refined products to National Petroleum Marketing Co. The company will refine the crude with Government paying for the refining.

Those were some of the things Texaco said it needed in order to keep operating, according to the union spokesman.

Kerosene Problem

The union was also told, according to its spokesman, that Texaco would not be making any more kerosene for the local market, but the company did not give any guarantee as to how the local market would be affected, except to say that Trintoc would be able to produce kerosene from indigenous crude.

It was learnt, too, that Texaco produces 27 million cubic feet of natural gas a day and it was being used in the refinery. The company buys about 40 million cubic feet from the National Gas Company. It was revealed also that Texaco is paying \$1.58 U.S. for every 1,000 feet of natural gas.

Mr. Andrew Fifi, president of the monthly paid branch, and Mr. James Stewart, president of the hourly rated weekly paid branch, spearheaded talks for the union's team.

With Mr. Austin were Mr. A. C. Nunes, assistant general manager, among others.

The company, during the meeting, outlined the losses sustained on the processing of a barrel of crude, financial problems encountered through taxation and problems associated with producing, among other things.

Asked to comment on the above, a Texaco spokesman said that Textrin's management had "frank discussions" with the president and branch officers of the union.

Matters covered in the main dealt with the poor economic and refining operations.

CSO: 3298/200

MOVE TO BOOST BWIA AS CARIBBEAN CARRIER UNDER WAY

Barbados Offer

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 25 Nov 82 p 24

[Text] BRIDGETOWN, Wed., (Cana) BARBADOS said yesterday it was willing to hand over the operations of its national airline, Caribbean Airways, to BWIA International as a further demonstration of its support for the Trinidad and Tobago State-owned carrier.

But Prime Minister Tom Adams told reporters that this move was subject to an assurance from BWIA that it was able to serve the Barbados/Europe route now looked after by Caribbean Airways.

"Barbados would be happy tomorrow to hand over the operations of Caribbean Airways to BWIA, but we must have a service into Europe. Our essential requirement is that 'planes must fly at least once a week, preferably twice, to appropriate destinations in Europe", Mr. Adams told a televised new conference.

Europe is one of Barbados's three main tourist markets and Caribbean Airways currently flies a bi-weekly service there to ferry holiday makers to the island. Tourism is the main foreign exchange earner of the island.

The Barbados Prime Minister said BWIA did not have aircraft that could fly to Europe and make a profit at current air fares. The Trinidad and Tobago airline operates two types of aircraft--the sleek bodied DC 9 capable of carrying 115 passengers and the wide bodied L1011 Tristar with a seating capacity of 246.

"They tell me that their aeroplanes would have to be 110 per cent full in order to break even on the route. Therefore Caribbean Airways must hire an aeroplane to make flying the route economical at present fares", Mr. Adams said.

Larger 'Planes'

The Barbados Prime Minister added: "Therefore no matter how much goodwill we have for Bee Wee, we must rent larger 'planes. If Bec Wee cares to rent the

bigger 'planes and operate the service for us, that could be a way out. But we must have aeroplanes that can hold 440 passengers or more."

"That is the only way the service can be economic and that is why we are using the services of Martin Air (a Dutch-owned airline) rather than of Bee Wee because Martin Air has the right size aircraft.

Caribbean Airways owns no aircraft. It was jointly owned with the collapse British airline, Laker Aircraft, which used to provide the planes. The airline plies the Barbados-Brussels route with a stop-over in London to take on more passengers.

Amid growing financial losses, Trinidad and Tobago is asking regional Government to officially designate BWIA as the official Caricom carrier. The matter was discussed at the recent Caricom Summit in Jamaica. For the first half of this year, BWIA incurred losses totalling \$61 million.

Barbados recently informed the Trinidad and Tobago Government that it was officially designating BWIA as its national carrier to service new United States routes acquired under a bilateral air agreement between Washington and Barbados.

Technical Matters

Asked whether Trinidad and Tobago had accepted the Barbados offer, Mr. Adams replied: "I don't believe it is something which has to be accepted or formally refused. If it is inconvenient for British West Indian Airways to fly the routes, they wouldn't fly then.

"I think the difficulty is that the Americans are insisting that the routes be served by separate aircraft, so that one aeroplane would have to fly to Boston and another to New York, rather than allowing one aeroplane to go from New York to Boston and back and then on to Barbados."

The Barbados Prime Minister continued: "I regard these as technical matters and I regret that they have been elevated into matters of principle, and even more than that they have been presented by the Press as matters of conflict between Barbados and Trinidad."

"Our interests coincide with those of Trinidad in seeking to get the best route deal and once BWIA indicates to us what route pattern it could fly, we will join in attempting to get that route pattern out of the Americans."

Saying that BWIA had a good case for being designated the official regional carrier, Mr. Adams said, however, even if the airline is accepted by Caricom States, problems would still exist, but at a different level.

"The needs of tourism and the needs of an airline do not necessarily coincide. Hoteliers and other people interested in tourists want cheap air fares and as frequent services as possible because that is the way to getting a bigger product," he said.

He added: "Airlines want regular services, not necessarily frequent, ferrying as many passengers as is consistent with a fare that will allow them to make money under all conditions."

"Therefore the interests of a regional air carrier, be it Bee Wee, Caribbean Airways, indeed even if you got together with somebody outside, will not necessarily coincide with the interests of the promoters of tourism within a country.

"When we have agreed on a mode of operation for a regional air carrier, that regional air carrier then has to come to terms with the needs of the tourist industry...", Mr. Adams told the news conference.

Increase in Regional Service

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 25 Nov 82 p 1

[Text] BRIDGETOWN, Wed., (Cana)--TRINIDAD and Tobago's national airline, BWIA International, is to expand its Caribbean service from December 15, a senior official of the airline has said here.

Announcing the airline's new winter schedule, BWIA Area Manager for Barbados and the Windward Islands, Clevedon Mayers told Cana there would be direct flights to Jamaica and Puerto Rico from Barbados.

He said that of the five BWIA weekly flights to Jamaica two would leave Barbados just before 7 a.m. and arrive in Kingston just before 9.30 a.m.

On the San Juan route, this new introduction would allow Puerto Rico-bound passengers to depart Barbados at 6.40 and arrive at 8.10 a.m.

He said that this could eliminate the need for overnighting in San Juan.

Christmas Traffic

The BWIA official said there would be three flights a week to Toronto with two extra sections on December 23 and January 3 to allow for the heavy flow of traffic to and from the Caribbean during the Christmas holidays.

On the New York route, he said there will be seven flights a week to choose from with four extra Christmas sections on December 21, 22, 23 and 24 and three on January 2, 4, and 5 to handle the traditional increase in holiday traffic.

For the first time this winter BWIA will fly an all L-1011 Tristar 500 fleet to London, New York and Toronto, with daily services to Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago from New York, along with five weekly non-stop flights to Antigua, two direct services to St. Lucia and a weekly non-stop to St. Kitts-Nevis.

Call for CBI Concessions

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 28 Nov 82 p 9

[Text]

DEPUTY Political Leader of the Organisation for National Reconstruction, Mr Surujrattan Rambachan, believes it is time that operations such as the management of ports, airports and post offices — be run as conventional business.

He suggested the raising of equity and loan capital in the market place, the government retaining whatever proportion it deems appropriate of either form of finance in order to exercise the influence it considers desirable.

Mr Rambachan, Director of Trans Caribbean Management Centre, made the suggestions while commenting on British West Indian Airways (BWIA) and rationalisation.

According to Mr Rambachan, there is no reason why public sector business should not be run at arms length.

PRIVATELY HELD

Some State airlines, like KLM, have been financed for years by a blend of publicly and privately-held equity and loan capital. The British Government recently announced plans to sell some of its equity to British Airways.

The recent decision by Caricom Heads of Government to look into ways and means of rationalising air transport in the region is indeed a significant regional development, Mr Rambachan said.

The position of BWIA with regard to its bargaining

strength in terms of any such moves for rationalisation remained rather weak.

It would appear that there were certain options open to BWIA with regard to rationalisation.

A NEW AIRLINE

•To form a new Caribbean-wide airline organisation (West Indian Airways Limited) and in this regard effect a merger with the other Caribbean owned based airlines.

•To arrive at strategic decisions regarding some co-operative behaviours (memorandum of understanding) in terms of routes serviced etc.

•To lease out its aircraft to one or the other Caribbean airlines.

•To sell out BWIA to private enterprise or to one or the other or all of the other Caribbean airlines.

•To sell/lease BWIA to one of the foreign airlines operating in the Caribbean.

He said it might be instructive for Caricom Governments, nay, West Indian Governments as a whole, to try and have some concessions granted with regard to air transportation within the Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI).

Comments on Barbados, Jamaica Offers

Port-of-Spain SUNDAY GUARDIAN in English 28 Nov 82 p 9

[Article by Stanley Payne-Jones]

[Text]

THEY say that it is bad form to look a gift horse in the mouth, but that is exactly what must be done before the Government decides whether to accept the offers by both Barbados and Jamaica in respect of air routes.

In the case of Barbados, that Government has named BWIA the national carrier to service routes between Barbados and the United States, principally, Washington and Boston. Air Jamaica has announced that it is prepared to defer to BWIA, whatever that means.

Mr Ronald Williams, Minister of State Enterprises, in commenting on the Barbados offer, indicated that BWIA would proceed very cautiously before coming to a decision. This is indeed a very sensibly approach, for although Mr Williams was loud in praise for the magnanimity of the Barbados Government in making the offer, there are those who question the genuineness of Little England's motives.

GRAVE RESPONSIBILITIES

In the first place it must be borne in mind that the establishment of an international air route carries with it grave responsibilities and a firm commitment to maintain fixed schedules on the route, regardless of the market response. And in these days, when airlines all over the world are contracting rather than expanding their services, or even going out of business, it would be foolhardy for BWIA to inaugurate a route that does not promise commercial viability.

Examining the commercial potential of the Barbados/U.S. service, one finds that tourism, the main foreign exchange earner and the largest source of revenue in the Barbados economy, has fallen tremendously. The effects of the recession in the U.S. have been most acutely felt in this sector. The visitor to that island finds the large hotels almost empty, and many of the luxury apartments which flourished on the West coast up to two years ago are now up for sale.

One remembers the great debate which raged in Bimshire about windows to the sea", prompted by these mushrooming luxury apartments.

One remembers, too, that in those days the Trinidadian was not particularly welcome in Barbados. While Germans and white North Americans were given brief immigration checks, Trinidadians were detained to answer foolish questions. This writer had the painful experience of meeting an immigration officer who threatened to deny entry because of the shortness of a previous visit. Store clerks thought nothing of leaving Trinidadians whom they were attending to rush to serve "white" tourists who had just come into the store. And there was the taxi driver outside the Barbados Hilton who voiced the prevailing mood when he nonchalantly told some Trinidadians that they should not come to

Barbados as they were not wanted there.

So we have to wonder whether Barbados would really have made that apparently gracious offer if its tourist trade were still buoyant. It must be remembered that instead of boosting BWIA when the tourist dollars were flowing, the Barbados Government established its own airline, Caribbean Airways.

NO DETAILS

In the case of the Jamaican offer, no details of the proposed transaction were given. Does it mean that BWIA will be saddled with that airline's heavy liabilities as well as taking over its assets and traffic routes? The latest information on Air Jamaica indicates that that airline lost \$21 million in its last fiscal year. Can Trinidad and Tobago afford to carry the burden of another losing entity?

Not so long ago, Prime Minister George Chambers told the PNM convention, quite rightly, that the time had come to consider whether it was meaningful to continue supporting an airline that was continually losing money. BWIA losses for the previous year were then \$178 million. What really is the use of having a national airline when we cannot afford to have one, when it becomes such a burden on the taxpayer?

Can we really accept the additional responsibility of Air Jamaica when at home, according to informed sources in the public service, the Government has already embarked on a retrenchment programme? According to the public service unions, the Government is right now using the disciplinary procedure for retrenchment purposes and that disciplinary tribunals are now sitting with remarkable regularity, in some instances daily, with the object of effecting dismissals from the service.

It is also reported that the BWIA management has been instructed to implement a retrenchment programme in which 500 staff at all levels will be sent home. If these reports are true, how could the Government justify the acquisition of Air Jamaica?

At home, the terrifying effects of the recession have not yet been felt. With \$7 billion in reserves, those effects might be averted if the economy is wisely managed. It may be that our very inefficiency which we have so often lamented, may prove to be our saving grace. For it was inefficiency which allowed us to plough unutilised allocated funds back into the Treasury where they went to augment the reserves. Because some public officials were not able to spend allocated funds, those amounts went back to the exchequer at the end of the year. It meant that certain goals were not achieved, some projects not completed and some not even begun. Targets were not realised but we gained surpluses. We were lucky because the petro-dollars were flowing.

But with the recession staring us in the face we have to be more than careful. We have to be properly business-like in all our activities. Caution has to be our watchword, especially in undertaking doubtful financial enterprises. To use an expression used in American horse-trading circles, we must "look them in the n. th good".

CARIBBEAN UNIONISTS MEET, CONDEMN EVENTS IN SURINAME

Call for Area Meeting

Bridgetown SUNDAY ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 19 Dec 82 p 1

[Text] TOP CARIBBEAN trade unionists arrived in Barbados yesterday for a meeting today to discuss support for the labour movement in Suriname, following the alleged execution last week of Vyril Daal, that country's foremost labour leader. Another Suriname trade unionist was reported missing.

The meeting, called by the locally-based Caribbean Congress of Labour (CCL), the regional trade union umbrella body, will be attended by representatives from Jamaica, Guyana, Trinidad and Tobago and Barbados.

Suriname's military rulers said last week they had discovered a Christmas coup plot and Daal was among the 15 conspirators. The 15 were gunned down by security forces while attempting custody, the military says. The CCL said they had been executed by firing squad.

CCL secretary-treasurer Burns Bonadie said an official of the Geneva-based International Labour Organisation (ILO), George DePeana, would also attend the one-day parley. The representatives attending tomorrow's meeting come from the Bustamante Industrial Trade Union and the National Trade Union in Jamaica, the Trinidad and Tobago Labour Congress, the Guyana Trades Union Council and the Barbados Workers Union.

Mr. Bonadie said the Daysi Bouterse regime in the former Dutch colony was completely ruthless and the CCL had to move cautiously so that the lives of more people were not endangered.

The Dutch Government, has also accused the Suriname's authorities of executing the 15 people, who included a former minister, lawyers, journalists and a top businessman.

Meanwhile, the U.S. State Department today announced that it was suspending a US\$1.5 million aid programme to Suriname--a move which has also been adopted by the Hague.

Emergency CCL Session

Bridgetown SUNDAY ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 19 Dec 82 p 1

[Text] The Caribbean Congress of Labour's (CCL) Administrative Committee at an emergency meeting yesterday condemned the killings in Suriname.

At the three-hour meeting, which was attended by top trade unionists from throughout the region, a request was made that the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU) should seek permission for a high-powered delegation to visit Suriname.

The trade unionists suggested at the meeting, which was held at Unity House, Roebuck Street, Bridgetown, that the delegation should include trade unionists from the Americas and Holland, the International Department of the ICFTU and from the Caribbean.

The meeting decided to call on Caribbean Governments to make a statement on the Suriname situation in the light of Suriname's intention to join the Caribbean Community (CARICOM).

In a statement after the meeting CCL secretary-treasurer Mr. Burns Bonadie said: "We are sending a cable to the International Labour Office requesting them to send a mission to Suriname to investigate the situation there."

Barbados Union's Action

Bridgetown SUNDAY ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 19 Dec 82 p 2

[Text] "The Barbados Workers' Union (BWU) says it is deeply concerned over events in Suriname where the military leader, Col. Desi Bouterse, announced that an attempted coup had been foiled.

The BWU said its concern had been heightened by what it termed "the senseless execution" of trade unionist Cyril Daal and the destruction of the trade union building.

At the same time it warned the Government in the South American country that it must recognise that traditions of democracy in the Caribbean allow for opposition and the expression of views different from that of the Government.

The BWU's reaction to the events in Suriname was the latest in a long list of protests

from the Caribbean labour movement. The Suriname Government has said that 15 persons connected to the plot had been shot as they attempted to escape custody.

But the Caribbean Congress of Labour which is arranging a meeting of top labour unions in the region to discuss the events, said it had reports from Suriname that 24—and not 15—persons were executed by the military.

The BWU described Daal as a unionist involved in the struggle in his country and the wider Caribbean for a better deal for workers.

The BWU said that very often Government which became intoxicated with power, did not tolerate persons or institutions which have

the guts to question their actions or to challenge them to make decisions and operate for the common good.

"This is an unfortunate and dangerous trend that is developing in the Caribbean. It is one which we abhor and it is a trend against which the union must continue to fight," the BWU said.

It reminded the Suriname military rulers that apart from allowing for views different from Government, regular elections were also part of the traditions in the Caribbean.

"These are the principles for which Daal and the trade union movement in Suriname were fighting," the BWU added.

FAA PRESIDENT PROTESTS WHEAT EXPORT PRICES

Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 26 Oct 82 p 15

[Text] The inadequacy of the reference support prices set for wheat and the guarantee of flexibility in the wheat sales mechanism were the central issues discussed during the meeting between the secretary of agriculture and livestock, Victor Hugo Santirso, and Humberto Volando, president of the FAA [Argentine Agrarian Federation]. During the meeting, Santirso was invited to attend the mass rally that the FAA will hold on 13 November in Canada de Gomez in Santa Fe province.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Volando said that he had told the secretary of agriculture that he felt the reference price for wheat was set too low. According to Volando, that price was established on the basis of international wheat prices and not on the basis of production costs. "If that had been done, on 1 November the assigned value would have to be over 500,000 pesos, and not 420,000 pesos, the price actually set."

Volando also reported that the purchasing regulations for the northern provinces will soon be announced. In that area, the "border customs" criterion will be used, while the FAA's position is that the price standard should be based on the "merchandise delivery site."

The agricultural leader expressed his concern about "some statements made by exporters who are insisting that the exchange rate set will not allow them to operate in the market; such an attitude could interrupt grain exports and we could be left with our silos full of wheat."

Volando proposed that the traditional exporters and cooperatives deal with the Grain Board and have the Board deliver the wheat required for their operations.

Volando also asked Santirso if the public works plan announced by the government includes the construction of grain silos and elevators for storage. "This is especially important as we have obtained a loan from the World Bank for this purpose, for which Argentina is paying the loan commission fee, while the loan itself has not been used."

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CSO: 3348/85

POSSIBLE GRAIN SUBSIDY DISCUSSED

Buenos Aires CONVICCION in Spanish 28 Oct 82 p 19

[Text] A 12 percent subsidy may be granted to agricultural producers in order to raise the price paid for their wheat, according to sources close to the grain sales system.

A study of the definitive amount of this subsidy was begun yesterday morning at the National Grain Board. This is a way of keeping this state organization from becoming the de facto sole purchaser of wheat, since it pays the farmer a price higher than the international wheat price.

The international wheat price is now at its lowest level in 30 years. To keep the crop from being sold at a loss, and the farmer from being forced to sell his grain at depressed prices, the National Grain Board has been authorized to pay a reference support price that is higher than the market price.

As a result, everything seems to suggest that farmers would automatically choose to sell to the Board, since no other operator could offer a better price.

According to sources with ties to the sales system, this would have been considered a clear "interventionist" measure, making the free operation of the market impossible.

The step that is reportedly under consideration now would enable the private sector to buy and sell by means of the subsidy granted, which would give good prices.

According to the reports, the issue has already been analyzed by the exporters and finance ministry officials, who allegedly considered the possibility of establishing a form of compensation for this sector, so it could freely intervene in this market.

This compensation, which would be paid by the Board, would be based on the international wheat prices and the exchange rate.

According to sources close to the export sector, based on the present wheat prices in the world market and based on an exchange rate in January of 45,000 pesos per dollar, the compensation to allow the private export sector to function would have to be 12 percent.

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UNIFICATION OF EXCHANGE MARKET TO BRIGHTEN GRAIN EXPORTS

Buenos Aires SOMOS in Spanish 5 Nov 82 pp 44-45

[Article by Alfredo A. Duran]

[Text] With the prospect of a record harvest to start with, and 2 million tons of fodder held over from the previous harvest, the exchange market unification came as big news for people concerned about the huge volume of world production, the decline in international prices, and the difficulties in negotiating a delay in shipments for this year. On Friday, 29 October the minister of the economy announced that the commercial rate would rise to the financial exchange rate, which is 39,000 pesos per dollar, and that adjustments in the exchange rate will follow the fundamental trends of domestic prices. It was also stipulated that withholdings on exports will be maintained (as was agreed upon with the International Monetary Fund mission, ensuring a sizeable treasury revenue). The immediate reaction from the exporting sector was quite favorable. "The reunification of the official exchange market is a very positive step, which has been urged repeatedly by the agricultural leaders," the head of the Buenos Aires Grain Exchange, Jorge Cort, told SOMOS. He added: "The announcement about future adjustments establishes a reasonable basis for planning transactions, favors sales of the last surpluses from the coarse grain harvest of 1981/82, thus helping to accelerate the sales recovery that started several weeks ago, and, for the next fine grain harvest, whose prospects look very good, it will generate more favorable conditions for an orderly and correct sales system. To some extent," he continued, "this will favor an increased involvement by the commercial sector, since the devaluation will bring prices based on the international market closer to the reference prices set by the National Grain Board. This step might be followed by a mechanism that is now being studied, which would offer alternatives so the Board would not have to take responsibility for the massive acquisition of the wheat harvest."

"A Bumper Crop"

Jorge Esteban Kalledey, director of Bunge and Born, met with SOMOS and commented: "The present fine grain harvest is going to be a bumper crop. I wouldn't be surprised if we got 11 million tons. After traveling in the interior of Argentina I can almost confirm that volume. With the 15 percent devaluation and the exchange unification, the price of wheat is now competitive in the international market. The measures announced by the minister of the economy have ended the problems that we had in exporting grain, since until Friday, 29 October, the domestic wheat price was much higher than the international price. Now we can say that with the exchange parity set at 39,000 pesos, even keeping the withholding levels at 25 percent, operations can begin with a decent profit margin."

"The exchange measures," agreed Horacio Fernandez Harper, president of Concepcion Mills and director of La Plata Grain, "will allow us to revive negotiations to sell our grain abroad. Furthermore, the fact that we have been able to adjust our prices to the domestic price level will keep us away from the danger of state intervention in grain sales. Until a little while ago people were saying that the Board would buy the wheat, would pay the difference, and would then export it. To date we have no firm sales commitments, while in other years at this time we already had purchase commitments for 2.5 to 3 million tons. Now we are just starting to negotiate, because of the new measures."

Shipments

The director of economic studies at the National Grain Board, Marcelo Eduardo Regunaga, confirmed the fact that a good part of the 2 million tons of sorghum and corn from the 1982 harvest that was held back will be shipped during the first quarter of 1983, in addition to the wheat from the new harvest. In that way, the record volume shipped in 1981, which came to a total of 22,548,000 tons, would this year be reduced to 18,500,000 tons. First there was a delay caused by the Malvinas war (the Russians changed some shipments), then a devaluation was expected and the producers and middlemen held back more than they would normally have done. The change in government and the adjustments in economic policy in July and August were also factors.

"Wheat from the new harvest," said Regunaga, "is just starting to sell now: from 200,000 to 300,000 tons will be shipped in

December, and most of the crop will be shipped between January and March. With a very large harvest, this season will also mean there will be a large volume in following months, but the capacity of our ports, which is above 3.5 million tons a month, will enable us to maintain normal shipments." Regunaga said that if private estimates of a harvest of 37 million tons become a reality, shipments will total 22 million tons of produce and 2.5 million tons of byproducts, producing a new record of 24.5 million tons. "For this to happen," he said, "we will need very favorable climate conditions (no drought) in January and February, just as we have had so far for wheat." About the sales prospects for such a large harvest, he felt that as there is a record world production, the market will be very competitive, but that Argentina does have cost advantages and will sell its surpluses. He said there are no problems about shipping, as the Board has substantially increased its shipping capacity, doubling it from 11 million tons in 1976 to 22 million tons last year.

In Jorge Cort's opinion, "the Soviet position about wheat purchases is very important and is still unknown, even though the latest statistics indicate that the Soviet Union's harvest may once again be less than its needs, for the 4th consecutive year. In any event," he said, "there are alternative markets in the Middle East and in Latin America."

Jorge Kalledey maintains that "our grain sale potential is at an optimum point. Argentina," he said, "has never been unable to sell a crop. Just the Latin American continent alone (Brazil, Ecuador, Venezuela, and other countries) absorbs about 3 million tons of wheat. The Russians are also going to buy from us (they usually purchase between 2 and 3 million tons)." Fernandez Harper agreed with that opinion, and also mentioned the Iranian and Arab markets. He added: "We are still concerned about the possibility that Brazil, Colombia, and Peru might switch to the U.S. market because of better financing terms, but we are trying to obtain good credit terms through private banks that will enable us to meet this competition in some way."

Undervalued Peso

The undersecretary of the economy, Miguel Iribarne, told SOMOS that "the unification of the exchange market clearly reflects a policy of keeping the value of the peso, measured in terms of the other currencies, slightly undervalued, in order to encourage exports and discourage imports. In that way we hope to generate a commercial balance that will be enough for us to pay the interest on Argentina's debt. The withholding level of 25

percent for grain," he emphasized, "is consistent with that sort of undervalued exchange rate, and no protest of a philosophical nature can be made about the withholding level, as it is just one more element in the overall foreign policy of Argentina. The withholding level is being used as a structure for the rest of our export and import products, and this is scheduled in our treasury accounts for the year 1983 as income, and has been agreed upon by the International Monetary Fund. With this devaluation," said Iribarne, referring to the 1 November devaluation, "it is not reasonable to expect any additional improvement in the exchange rate measured in real terms. The grain producer is being supported. Acting through the Grain Board, for the 1982/83 harvest we had already established a mechanism to maintain some minimum reference prices for the producer in order to cope with the ups and downs of international prices and the aggressive export subsidy or financing policies used by the United States and some other countries. We did this to bring tranquility to the farm sector, and because the great mass of the product on the market may cause at a given moment a decline due fundamentally to the lack of grain storage capacity, which does not allow us to keep our fine grain harvest in storage with our coarse grain crop, except to a small extent. Because of that, the exporting sector knows that Argentina has to export and that the producer is forced to sell a particular proportion of the crop.

More Silos

"Argentina has developed a good capacity for the preparation and shipment of its grain, both in private silos in the interior and in our port facilities. Our shipping capacity has improved significantly. I would say that we are close to 4 million tons a month, but this does not mean that we have an adequate storage capacity," added Iribarne. "So we have decided to undertake the silo construction plan that was negotiated with the World Bank in 1978. Financing in the amount of \$110 million was granted, but was not used. There are 20 plants, each with a capacity of 2 million tons. In addition, the plan calls for dredging the port of Bahia Blanca and improving its facilities, along with railway investments, also financed by the World Bank. The expansion of our storage capacity will help Argentina to sell its grain at the time when it can obtain the highest price. This does not depend strictly on the time of the harvest, but rather on world harvests and on the status of the world market."

The undersecretary of the economy told SOMOS in conclusion that within the next few days regulations to implement the mechanism

agreed upon with the exporters will be issued. These regulations will apply the minimum prices established for the producers by the Board, if that should become necessary. "For us," said Iribarne, "this is an accounting concept. What we receive as the amount withheld we turn over partly to the Grain Board so that it can pay the compensation. It is not a subsidy."

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CSO: 3348/85

VARIATIONS IN COARSE GRAIN YIELD REPORTED

Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 25 Oct 82 p 8

[Text] While soy and sorghum production increased in volume during the 1981/1982 harvest by about 6 percent over the preceding harvest, sunflower production rose by 41 percent; at the same time, there was a decline of over 25 percent in the corn harvest, according to data supplied by the ministry of agriculture and livestock.

During this period soy production was 4 million tons, compared with 3.77 million tons during the 1980/81 harvest. This is an absolute variation of 230,000 tons, while the relative increase was 6.1 percent.

During the past 5-year period, the volume produced increased by 34.5 percent, based on an average production of 2,974,000 tons, while the increase during the decade was 136.7 percent, based on an average of 1,689,600 tons.

The provinces with the largest production were: Santa Fe, with 1.94 million tons; Cordoba, with 905,000 tons; and Buenos Aires, with 872,000.

During the past season sorghum production was 8 million tons, a 6 percent increase over the 7.55 million tons produced the previous year. The increase over the last 5-year period was 31.1 percent, while the volume increased by 49.2 percent in the last 10 years.

Cordoba is the province with the largest production, with 2.3 million tons, although we should mention that the past season had a 20.2 percent decline.

The largest increase in production was in the sunflower crop, in which the 1.78 million ton harvest was 41.3 percent larger than the 1.26 million tons harvested in the 1980/81 season.

This increase was caused by a significant improvement in crop yield, which in the present season was 1,133 kilograms per hectare, while in the previous season the yield was 984 kilograms per hectare.

The province of Buenos Aires has the largest sunflower production, with 1.18 million tons, followed by Cordoba, with 242,000 tons, and Santa Fe, with 130,000 tons.

There was a significant decline in the corn crop, since the 9.6 million tons harvested meant a 25.6 percent decline from the amount produced the previous year.

This level of production is the combined effect of a decline in the area harvested, which decreased from 3.39 to 3.16 million hectares, and of a decline in yields, which dropped from 3,801 to 3,039 kilograms per hectare.

Cotton

The area planted in cotton for the 1982/83 season has been estimated by the ministry of agriculture and livestock at 459,200 hectares. This would be a 13.7 percent increase over the 403,800 hectares of the 1981/82 season.

The largest increases in the land planted in cotton were in the province of Chaco, with an 11.1 percent increase; Santa Fe, with a 17.5 percent increase; and Santiago del Estero, with a 138.1 percent increase.

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BRIEFS

VOLANDO OPTIMISTIC--The head of the FAA [Argentine Agrarian Federation], Humberto Volando, today urged that Argentina's prospects for foreign grain sales not be overly dramatized. "There will be difficulties," he said, but "it will not be impossible." He made this comment at the conclusion of the meeting he had this afternoon with the secretary of agriculture and livestock, Victor Santirso, which he attended accompanied by the director of the FAA, Daniel Boo. The agricultural leader reported that he asked the secretary to readjust the reference price for wheat, set at 420,000 pesos per hundredweight, to take effect in November. He said he expected that within a few days the Grain Board will decide how the wheat purchase will begin, and he repeated the FAA's request that the price be set on the basis of the delivery site all over the country. For the northern provinces the price will be set on what he called the "border customs" basis. He said it is necessary to maintain "flexibility" in wheat exports and denied the charge that it will be impossible for private exporters to sell their merchandise. Volando said that these exporters will be able "to deal with the Board and have the Board turn over the wheat to them." For this reason, they will not be able to lay the blame on the Grain Board for their own lack of "skill" in operating in the foreign grain market. [Text[[Bahia Blanca LA NUEVA PROVINCIA in Spanish 26 Oct 82 p 4] 7679

CSO: 3348/85

MORE HOTEL WORKER LAYOFFS EXPECTED AS TOURISM DECLINES

Bridgetown THE NATION In English 17 Dec 82 p 1

[Article by Al Gilkes]

[Text]

SOME 2 000 Barbadian hotel workers have already lost their jobs, and hundreds more are expected to be laid off over the Christmas period and afterwards, as Barbados reels under the effects of one of its worst ever tourist seasons.

This has been revealed by a Barbados Hotel Association (BHA) source, which said that the decline in tourist arrivals during the past months and the opening of the 1982/83 Winter season with a 12 percent decrease below last year's figures, had placed several hotels in jeopardy.

It was noted that many now found themselves with no alternative, but to make staff redundant as the industry experienced unprecedented failures by tour operators to fill allocated rooms, leaving some hotels empty.

Hoteliers themselves are also

being pressured by commercial banks to pay up loans and overdrafts on which they had been asking for extensions, based on the hopes of a good winter season, which has not come and which now seems unlikely to come.

The source noted that it was a sad thing to happen in the industry, but by next weekend (Christmas), several more workers would find themselves receiving their last pay packets, and joining the some 2 000 who have already reduced the 9 000-strong hotel labour force to 7 000.

Already three hotels have this year been forced to close their doors because of financial difficulties. They are Miramar, Arawak Inn and Music Man Inn. Others have changed hands in an attempt to keep afloat.

In addition to the layoffs, many hotels are now, for the first time during a winter season, rotating their staff on a week-on, week-off basis.

It was added that few hotels, large or small, could hold up under the present strain, and as BHA president Alfred Taylor said earlier this year, if this winter season is not a good one, a number of them will close their doors by next summer, not temporarily, but for good.

The association now sees the need for a massive public awareness programme on the importance of tourism to Barbados in an attempt to clean up the bad image about attitudes and other factors which the island now has in the major market places.

POLICE PLAN REORGANIZATION, RENEWED FIGHT AGAINST CRIME

Durant Speech

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 21 Dec 82 p 1

[Text]

The Royal Barbados Police Force has emphasised that the maintenance of law and order in Barbados was a police responsibility, and warned that it will not be playing a secondary role in such matters.

Emphasising this yesterday was Commissioner of Police Mr. Orville Durant who also said his administration will not be tolerating deliberate acts of disregard for the main objectives of the Force.

Mr. Durant spoke yesterday at the annual general meeting of the Police Association held at Police Headquarters, Bridgetown.

He told a packed audience, which included Prime Minister Tom Adams, that his department recognised no other agency as having the responsibility of maintaining law and order as its primary function.

But he conceded that other agencies in the society as well as law-abiding citizens had a specific role to play in

assisting the police in the pursuance of their duties.

"The Police Force is capable of dealing with all matters of law and order in this society whether such matters be concerned with criminal activity, general lawlessness, political unrest, industrial dispute, or any other matter of a civil nature.

"We will not adopt a secondary role in matters of this kind", he said amidst thunderous applause from officers present.

Turning to the conduct of officers the Commissioner said the force will "give absolutely no support to dishonesty among policemen; it will not overlook instances of unprovoked police brutality; it will not condone uncivil or uncouth conduct by police officers; nor will it treat lightly the acts which seek to abuse the dignity of individual members of the public."

He added: "Most of all...the administration will not condone inefficiency or incompetence based on callousness and indifference

to the public interest and the common good."

Mr. Durant warned that members of the force who chose to engage in drug trafficking or other acts of crime or who neglected to meet their obligations to the public, can expect on detection, nothing but the full weight of the administration's disciplinary machinery.

This he noted could result in prosecution in the criminal courts where applicable, and to dismissal from the force where such was in the interest of the public.

The Commissioner pointed out that the force was now actively reviewing the procedures for dealing with complaints by members of the public against police officers and a system will be devised in the near future to satisfy the needs of the society.

He added that the association will be kept informed about the developments and the force will be looking forward to the association's support in pursuing the broad policies on discipline.

Anticrime Measures

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 21 Dec 82 p 1

[Text] Commissioner of Police Mr. Orville Durant yesterday outlined a number of measures his department will be introducing to tackle crime in Barbados.

Mr. Durant who took up his duties lastmonth outlined the measures in an address to the annual general meeting of the Police Association at Police headquarters on Coleridge Street.

Mr. Durant promised that the police will be placing their efforts on crime affecting people in their homes and to acts of lawlessness as they affect the tourist industry.

In addition, indiscipline on the streets will receive positive police responses, while crime against crops especially the malicious burning of canes will be given the most concentrated police surveillance ever, he said.

Then there is the much talked about Juvenile Liaison Scheme with discussions between the police, the Probation Office, the Child Care Board, the Welfare Department and appropriate Government Ministry soon to be completed, the Commissioner added.

Further activiteis in the field of Community Policing Mr. Durant said, will include re-examination, and where possible a resuscitation of the Police Boys' and Girls' clubs; and the development of small consultative bodies throughout the country to encourage greater community participation and to enhance the level of communication between the Police Service and the public.

As an additional complement the public will in the new year be seeing the Royal Barbados Police Band performing in rural areas among them Ellerton, St. George, Welchman Hall, St. Thomas, Checker Hall, St. Lucy, Sherbourne, St. John, and Orange Hill, St. James among others.

Said Mr. Durant: "Let me hasten to warn those recalcitrant members of our society who may seek to break the law with impunity, and to assure the law-abiding citizens of this country, that our preventive style of policing does not preclude vigorous operational methods where vigour and toughness are necessary."

He said too that the community style of policing must be complemented by the development of the highest standards of professional competence of which the force was capable.

Mr. Durant said the level of crime in the country was too high for this society and he could not support the view that there was not need to be alarmed about the present situation.

"The dnager signs are there for all to see and there must be an immediate reversal," he noted.

Furthermore he remarked that he had enlisted the support of several organisations and friends in the community, who will be used effectively in the campaign of prevention and detection.

"Let it be known to all that wherever crime of the nature I have described is committed in Barbados, we shall search it out and use every available resource to bring the offender to justice", he added.

Structural Reassessment

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 21 Dec 82 p 1

[Text] An apparent re-organisation of the structure and functioning of the Police Force is in the making.

News of this has come from Commissioner of Police Mr. Orville Durant who addressed the lawmen's association yesterday, and who also expressed dissatisfaction at some of the facilities under which the lawmen have to function.

Said the commissioner: "I have tried to give you an idea of some of the matters which will be engaging our attention during the ensuing year."

"In addition, we shall be embarking on a major reexamination of the organisation, structure, and functions of the Force. It is my intention that there should always be full consultation with your association on any matters affecting the development of the Force and welfare of its members."

Turning to facilities within the Force, Mr. Durant singled out the Criminal Investigation Department saying that accommodation for officers there was a scandalous indictment on the society.

"The working conditions for this department are in every sense atrocious and must be remedied without delay," he said.

In addition he said accommodation for the Police Band was unsatisfactory, and informed officers that his administration will be insisting upon an early resumption of work on completion of the District A complex.

On the brighter side Mr. Durant said an eight-hour shift system of duty was introduction at Central Police Station as a means of providing a more realistic working arrangement for officers patrolling the streets.

Like the Resident Beat Officer Scheme, it has so far met with tremendous acclaim, Mr. Durant said, while noting that the potential which the two developments had generated augured well for the future of the Force.

According to Mr. Durant: "The eight-hour system of duty is in fact an attempt to rationalise the deployment of our major manpower resources. It has provided Bridgetown with greater and more reliable police coverage while at the same time affording the patrolling Police officer with better working conditions."

Adams Remarks

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 21 Dec 82 p 1

[Text]

It has been suggested that hoteliers in Barbados bear their own responsibilities for security arrangements if they wish to see the crime rate against visitors fall below the current levels.

The suggestion has come from Prime Minister Tom Adams who said yesterday that the Royal Barbados Police Force was doing the best it can in combating crime in the island.

Mr. Adams addressed the annual general meeting of the Police Association yesterday at Police Headquarters, Coleridge Street, the City.

The Prime Minister gave a run down on some of the statistics relating to crime against visitors, pointing out that by the end of October this year such crime had fallen by more than 24 per cent compared with the corresponding period last year.

He said there were other significant reductions with only two cases of rape, two of indecent assault and four other offences against visitors reported plus a 20 per cent

decline in robberies.

However, Mr. Adams said the one area where crime against visitors is not falling is offences against the visitors committed on hotel premises.

He reinforced a warning he issued earlier this year to the Barbados Hotel Association (BHA) to put its house in order as far as crime is concerned.

The Prime Minister noted that the RBPF cannot do everything, and could not construct burglar proof structures for the hoteliers.

"I would suggest to the hotels that if they want the statistics for crime against visitors to fall even more they must bear more responsibility for their own security," he said.

Mr. Adams added: "I am satisfied that the RBPF is doing virtually the best that it can."

Mr. Adams said that Barbados currently has 1050 police officers an increase of 25 per cent over six years, or one policeman to every 250 people.

Communications Program

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 21 Dec 82 p 1

[Text]

By the end of the current financial year Government would have spent at least \$1 million over a two year period on telecommunication equipment within the Royal Barbados Police Force, Prime Minister Tom Adams announced yesterday.

Mr. Adams said so while reiterating Government's plans to update the physical structure of the force whose association was having its annual general meeting at Police Headquarters.

Mr. Adams said that the new Headquarters for Police to be sited at Wildey, St. Michael will contain a forensic

laboratory, and Government was hoping to have construction started sometime in 1984 or the following year.

In addition, the Prime Minister said he was hoping to have the new Police Training Centre built adjacent to the new headquarters which will replace the present Headquarters on Coleridge Street, Bridgetown.

He also referred to the new Oistins station which the Police Force will be occupying from next month, and proposed stations to be built at the Valley, St. George, and Welchman Hall, St. Thomas.

NEW SYSTEM FOR SUGAR CANE PAYMENT DUE NEXT YEAR

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 17 Dec 82 p 1

[Text] "Barbados six sugar factories yesterday announced that from next year they would adopt a new joint system of determining payment for cane supplies from local growers.

Barbados Sugar Factories Limited, which speaks for all the plants, said the payment system would take into account growing and reaping costs in various parts of Barbados and the amount of cane it takes to produce a tonne of sugar.

The company's small holders relations officer Trevor Rudder said the idea was to "ensure a more equitable distribution of revenue to cane growers through the island."

To effect this, Barbados, for the purposes of the payment system had been divided into six regions — called ecological groups.

Mr. Rudder explained: "In deciding what area would be in which group, a detailed study and assessment was

made of all cane growing areas according to soil, rainfall, topography and productivity over a number of years.

"Each area with similar characteristics was placed in the same group and calculations for cane payment made accordingly," he told a news conference.

Mr. Rudder added: "There is therefore no longer a single cane price at each individual factory. Each factory must calculate a price for each ecological group, as all factories receive cane from several ecological groups.

"It is hoped that the new system of payment will bring a renewed commitment by cane growers to growing sugar cane, with the expectation of fair recompense for their efforts," he said.

The BSF official said that the intention of the new system is a re-distribution of revenue throughout the industry and the objective is to encourage the people in the poor or the less productive groups to continue growing

sugar cane.

He said that the industry must maintain a certain size in order to retain its viability. Growers in the central Barbados Scotland area where the soil and growing conditions are different and where productivity is not always on par with the rest of the island, would be receiving the better price.

Mr. Rudder said that the idea of trying to distribute the revenue more equitably was not new. It was first attempted some 13 years ago.

Barbados, which saw its sugar output this year drop to a 34-year low of 85 000 tonnes, has set itself a target of 150 000 tonnes if the industry is to remain viable.

The Government has also announced a new price support scheme to help the essentially private industry out of its current financial bind.

Sugar is Barbados number three foreign exchange earner, following tourism and manufacturing. (CANA)

BARROW COMMENTS FURTHER ON, SUPPORTS AERO PURCHASE

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 17 Dec 82 p 2

[Text]

Senator Nigel Barrow, Leader of the Senate, last Wednesday gave Senators a number of reasons why the Government wants to borrow \$3 700 000 from Barclays Bank International Limited to purchase the assets of Aero Services Ltd.

The considerations given are:

- The need for an air taxi service for visitors to Barbados who want to visit the islands;

- To maintain employment for Aero Services staff;

- The need for the company to serve as a nucleus of an expanding aircraft maintenance industry in this island; and the

- Need for the company to provide a back-up service for the Coast Guard Service air-sea search rescue operations.

Piloting a Resolution for the loan from Barclays Bank, Senator Barrow said that Aero Services was a private airline company and was a subsidiary of Barclays Bank International Limited.

The aircraft was used, among other things, to take Barclays staff around the islands in the course of their duties, Senator Barrow said.

He added that the Bank had 46 per cent of the shares in

Aero Services and the remainder was held by a number of private individuals.

Senator Barrow explained that the company operated eight planes on a commercial basis, and employed 42 people, including nine pilots.

He said that the Bank did not want to continue its major shareholding for certain reasons, and would make a loan to the Government.

Senator Barrow added that indications were that there was scope for expansion of aircraft maintenance activities, and marketing could be developed.

"It is the maintenance side of the company that has been most profitable," Senator Barrow said.

He pointed out that there would be a vast difference in cost in having to pay somewhere else for the services provided by Aero Services.

Speaking about the importance of the company to the Coast Guard Service, Senator Barrow said that in the last two years, the Coast Guard had given assistance to some 42 vessels.

He said that the air-sea search and rescue service was something that was a continuing business.

Following the closing down

of Aero Services, he said, the Government had appointed personnel to do a study of the company, and it was on the basis of that study that the present agreement was entered into.

Senator Barrow stated that the advice given to the Government was that the company could be turned into a profitable venture.

He said that the loan was being given on extremely good concessionary terms; and the funds could be recouped to repay the loan.

The Government had decided that it would be in their best interests to purchase Aero Services at this stage, Senator Barrow said.

Independent Senator Wendell McClean said that the Leader of the Senate had given them an explanation which was some distance from what he (Senator McClean) saw in the Resolution.

Senator McClean said that it seemed to him that the Government will buy the assets of the company.

He wondered whether a valuation of the assets was done, and what it stated.

Senator McClean also wanted to know to what extent the loan corresponded with the fixed assets.

POLL SHOWS PEOPLE PESSIMISTIC ABOUT 1983

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 30 Dec 82 p 40

[Text] The possibility of a political change in the country as a result of the last elections was not enough to increase the optimism of Brazilians with respect to 1983. The economic crisis the country is undergoing, the prospects of new strikes and an increase in unemployment still worry men and women, rich and poor, old and young. Dissatisfied with the year just ending, --the majority considered it just average--45 percent of the people who answered a national survey by the Gallup Institute expect the coming year to be better than this one, while 27 percent believe it will be worse, 19 percent believe it will be the same and 9 percent had no opinion.

However, it is not only national problems which lead the majority of Brazilians to lack optimism about next year. Expectations of international conflicts and the possibility of a new world war affect optimism, although in previous years the fear of these conflicts was greater.

1982: Only an Average Year

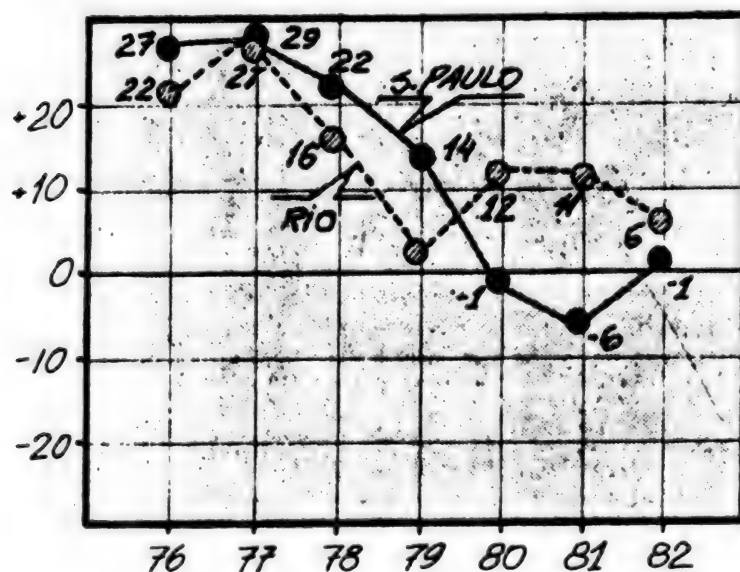
During the first half of December, the Gallup Institute interviewed 2,065 Brazilians in 21 states, men and women of all ages and social-economic levels, in addition to another 1,175 persons in Rio and Sao Paulo, since these are the two largest metropolitan areas of the country. The poll was divided into two parts. In the first, questions were asked about the degree of satisfaction with 1982, the hopes for 1983 and the economic prospects for next year. In the second, the questions were on unemployment, strikes, international conflicts and world war.

Only 6 percent of those interviewed throughout the entire country considered 1982 a very good year, but the percentage of those who considered it very bad--7 percent--was also low, while 25 percent said it was good, 53 percent said it was average and 8 percent said it was bad. Only 1 percent of those interviewed had no opinion with respect to this year. The people of Rio de Janeiro liked this year better than those of Sao Paulo: 25 percent of them said it was very good compared to 21 percent; 19 percent believed it was very bad or bad compared to 20 percent and 56 percent of the Cariocas found the year to be average compared to a like belief by 59 percent of those from Sao Paulo.

PESSOAS DIZENDO QUE O ANO QUE TERMINA FOI... (1)	SÃO PAULO							RIO DE JANEIRO						
	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	76	77	78	79	80	81	82
— um ótimo ano ou um bom ano (2)	39	38	36	28	27	24	21	34	41	32	33	25		
— um ano regular (3)	48	50	50	7	44	46	59	53	45	49	57	45	43	56
— um ano ruim ou péssimo (4)	12	11	14	14	28	30	20	12	12	16	20	20	22	19
— Não sabem dizer (5)	1	1	—	1	1	—	—	1	2	3	—	1	2	—
TOTAIS	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
DIFERENÇA ótimo ou bom - ruim ou péssimo (6)	+27	+27	+22	+14	-1	-17	+1	+22	+29	+16	+3	+12	+11	+6

Key:

1. People saying that the year ending was...
2. A very good or good year.
3. An average year.
4. A bad or very bad year.
5. No opinion.
6. Difference between good or very good and bad or very bad.



The survey found that the degree of satisfaction--difference between those who considered the year to be good or very good and those who found it bad or very bad--had very similar curves in São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro. There is a tendency for the curves to equalize in 1982.

Degree of satisfaction with 1982.

The expectation that 1983 will be better than 1982 is greater in the northern and western regions among Classes D and E and in cities with fewer than 10,000 homes. In the northern and central west regions, 49 percent of those interviewed expect a better year, 27 percent expect a worse year and 18 percent believe it will be the same. In the southeastern region, 48 percent believe it will be better, 29 percent say it will be worse and 17 percent believe it will be the same. In the southern and northeastern regions, the percentages are 42 percent and 42 percent; 29 and 22 percent and 23 and 20 percent respectively. In Class A, 35 percent of those interviewed expect a better year, 39 percent expect a worse year, and 21 percent expect a similar year, while in Class E, 51 percent believe that 1983 will be better, 17 percent believe it will be worse and 16 percent believe it will be the same. In the capitals, 40 percent of those interviewed believe that a better year will begin, 34 percent say it will be worse and 21 percent say it will be the same. In the cities with up to 5,000 homes, 53 percent believe that life will improve in 1983, 18 percent believe that it will get worse and 21 percent believe it will be the same.

The economic crisis, greatly debated and even more greatly felt these past months, left the impression among Brazilians that economic difficulties are going to increase as of January. Of those interviewed throughout the country, 44 percent believe that 1983 will be a year of economic difficulties, while 24 percent believe it will be prosperous and 23 percent believe it will be the same as 1982. Among men, 48 percent foresee economic difficulties, a choice made by 40 percent of the women who participated in the poll. In Class A, difficulties are expected by 64 percent of those interviewed, a percentage which declines to 32 percent in Class E, where 19 percent of those interviewed answered they do not know what the next year will be like economically. People between 30 and 49 years-of-age are those who view next year with more pessimism--46 percent--while 45 percent of those between 18 and 29 years-of-age, and 39 percent of those over 50, foresee economic difficulties.

For 52 percent of those interviewed in the southern region, 45 percent of those in the north and center-west regions, 42 percent in the southeast and 41 percent in the northeast, the economy will have problems next year. In the capitals, the rate is 50 percent and in the cities with up to 5,000 homes, it declines to 37 percent. These expectations of economic difficulties have been predominantly in the polls which the Gallup Institute has been holding since 1967 in Sao Paulo, and since 1975 in Rio, but the figures obtained this time are smaller, for example, than those of 1980.

Pessimism Returns

Between 1969 and 1973, in the era of the so-called "economic miracle," people were very optimistic at the end of the year as to what would take place the following year. Then pessimism increased, declining once more last year.

The same survey on prospects for 1983 was made in Europe and other countries of America. In the majority of European countries it was found that there is much pessimism, particularly in France, Germany, Italy, Holland and Belgium. Those living in England, Greece and Norway are already showing more optimism about next year. In the Americas, only in one country did the survey reveal that the degree

ACHAM QUE 1982 FOI UM ... (9)	(11) TOTAL NACIONAL	CLASSE (1)					(2) IDADE			REGIÕES DO BRASIL (3)			
		A	B	C	D	E	18 a 29	30 a 49	50 ou+	SU- DES- TE (5)	SUL (6)	NOR- DES- TE (7)	NOR- TE OES- TE (8)
	%	%					%			%			
- ótimo ano (10)	6	2	5	5	7	9	6	6	4	4	4	10	7
- bom ano (11)	25	22	26	24	24	29	25	25	25	24	29	22	28
- ano regular (12)	53	57	53	57	53	42	52	53	53	55	53	51	49
- ano ruim (13)	8	10	10	7	7	10	9	8	9	8	9	9	8
- péssimo ano (14)	7	9	5	6	8	9	7	7	8	9	5	6	6
- Não sabem dizer (15)	—	—	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	—	—	2	2
TOTAIS (16)	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
BASES (17)	3065	194	480	966	1001	424	1275	1223	567	1327	619	815	304

Key:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Class | 10. Very good year |
| 2. Age | 11. Good year |
| 3. Regions of Brazil | 12. Average year |
| 4. National total. | 13. Bad year |
| 5. Southeast | 14. Very bad year |
| 6. South | 15. No opinion |
| 7. Northeast | 16. Totals |
| 8. Northwest | 17. People interviewed |
| 9. Believe that 1982 was a... | |

ACHAM QUE 1982 FOI UM ... (2)	TOTAL NACIONAL (3)	TAMANHO DE CIDADES POR NÚMERO DE DOMICÍLIOS (1)				
		CAPI- TAIS (4)	+ DE 20000 DOM. (5)	10001 20000 DOM. (6)	5001 10000 DOM. (7)	ATÉ 5000 DOM. (8)
	%	%	%	%	%	%
- ótimo ano (9)	6	4	4	8	6	7
- bom ano (10)	25	24	21	23	28	32
- ano regular (11)	53	55	58	53	47	49
- ano ruim (12)	8	7	8	9	12	5
- péssimo ano (13)	7	10	9	5	6	6
- Não sabem dizer (14)	1	—	—	2	1	1
TOTAIS (15)	100	100	100	100	100	100
BASES (16)	3065	816	507	921	437	384

[Key on following page]

Key: [for chart on preceding page]

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Size of cities by number of homes | 9. Very good year |
| 2. Believe that 1982 was a... | 10. Good year |
| 3. National total | 11. Average year |
| 4. Capitals | 12. Poor year |
| 5. More than 20,000 homes | 13. Very poor year |
| 6. 10,001 to 20,000 homes | 14. No opinion |
| 7. 5001 to 10,000 homes | 15. Totals |
| 8. Up to 5,000 homes | 16. Number of people interviewed |

ACHAM QUE O PRÓXIMO ANO SERÁ DE ... (1)	SÃO PAULO															
	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
— prosperidade econômica (2)	39	44	53	73	58	68	46	42	39	34	34	25	20	12	24	20
— dificuldades econômicas (3)	48	50	43	20	32	24	41	48	53	55	51	63	71	68	51	50
Val ficar na mesma ou não sabem dizer (4)	13	6	4	7	10	8	13	10	8	11	15	12	9	20	25	30
TOTAIS	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
DIFERENÇA (prosperidade (5) — dificuldade)	-9	-6	+10	+53	+26	+44	+5	-6	-14	-21		-38	-51	-56	-27	-30

Key:

1. Believe that next year will be one of...
2. Economic prosperity
3. Economic difficulties
4. Is going to be the same or no opinion
5. Difference (prosperity versus difficulty)

EM RELAÇÃO A 1982, ACHAM QUE 1983 SERÁ UM ANO... (18)	PAÍSES EUROPEUS DO MERCADO COMUM (1)										DE FORA DO MERCADO COMUM (2)				
	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)	(17)
	ALEMANHA	BÉLGICA	DINAMARCA	FRANÇA	GRÉCIA	HOLANDA	IRLANDA	ITÁLIA	INGLATERRA	LUXENBURGO	ÁUSTRIA	FINLÂNDIA	NORUEGA	SUÉCIA	SUIÇA
	%										%				
- melhor (19)	13	7	14	18	59	18	23	27	43	8	8	28	44	22	24
- pior (20)	22	60	47	42	18	49	55	56	30	56	45	36	40	35	29
- igual (21)	53	26	31	36	10	30	18	15	22	33	43	37	12	40	42
NÃO SABEM (22)	12	7	8	4	13	5	4	2	5	3	6	1	4	3	5
TOTAIS (23)	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
DIFERENÇA (24) (melhor - pior)	-9	-53	-33	-24	+41	-33	-32	-29	+13	-48	-39	-10	+4	-13	-5

Key:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| 1. European Common Market Countries | 13. Austria |
| 2. Outside the Common Market | 14. Finland |
| 3. Germany | 15. Norway |
| 4. Belgium | 16. Sweden |
| 5. Denmark | 17. Switzerland |
| 6. France | 18. Believe that compared to 1982, 1983 will be... |
| 7. Greece | 19. Better |
| 8. Holland | 20. Worse |
| 9. Ireland | 21. The same |
| 10. Italy | 22. Do not know |
| 11. England | 23. Totals |
| 12. Luxemburg | 24. Difference (better versus worse) |

of pessimism is very high--Peru, where 67 percent of those interviewed expect a worse year. The Colombians are the most optimistic--54 percent expect a better year--followed by the Brazilians, North Americans, Canadians and Chileans.

The Brazilians, however, were always more optimistic than the people of other countries, particularly in 1970, 1971 and 1972.

Unemployment, Strikes and War

Unemployment continues to be one of the great concerns of the Brazilian--48 percent of the people interviewed believe that it should increase in 1983; 25 percent say it will decline and 20 percent believe that the present rate will remain. The people with the greatest buying power are the ones who speak about unemployment the most. In Class A, 62 percent believe that there will be less employment, while only 16 percent believe the chances for jobs will increase. In Class B and C, 50 and 48 percent, respectively, are pessimistic about the levels of employment, a rate which falls to 45 percent in Classes D and E. However, the fear of unemployment has already been greater in Brazil, as in 1980, when 65 percent of those from Sao Paulo and 71 percent of the Cariocas foresaw an increase.

Also reduced by comparison with previous years were the expectations of strikes and problems in labor relations. Even so, 41 percent of those interviewed still believe that misunderstandings between management and labor will be greater in 1983; 22 percent believe they will decrease and 28 percent say they will remain the same as this year. These expectations of an increase are greater in Class A and B--47 and 46 percent--than in Class E with 34 percent, and in the southern and northeastern regions--42 and 46 percent--than in the north and center west, which had 37 and 34 percent.

At an international level, the survey found that in Denmark, Holland and Norway the majority of those interviewed expect an increase in strikes, a situation which is inverted in Sweden. Brazil is among the countries where the expectation of strikes is less.

Despite being large, the number of persons who see 1983 as a year "agitated by wars and many international conflicts"--32 percent--there is still a certain hope "of peace and few conflicts" among Brazilians--34 percent. Expectations of peace are greater among the people of greater purchasing power who live in smaller cities and in the north and center-west regions. Among the people in Class A, 28 percent believe that there will be more peace in 1983 and 40 percent believe there will be more war, while in Class E the replies were 41 percent and 22 percent, respectively.

Even foreseeing international conflicts, the Brazilians and those of 27 other countries no longer think as much about a world war as they did last year. In 1981, the chances of a new world war taking place, in the opinion of these people, was 37.2 percent as an average in all those countries where the survey was made, an estimate that declined to 30.3 percent this year.

NO CHANGE IN RELATIONS WITH SOVIET UNION FORESEEN

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 19 Dec 82 p 14

[Text] Bilateral relations between Brazil and the Soviet Union will not undergo any great changes with the rise of Yuriy Andropov to power after the death of Leonid Brezhnev. The statement was made by Soviet Ambassador to Brazil Vladimir Ivanovich Chernyshev.

According to the ambassador, "The direction of foreign policy in my country is built on very solid foundations, which prevents sudden changes in its line, even when there is a change in the political summit of the government." And he explains: "The foreign policy of the Soviet Union is a policy of principles, which had its beginning in 1917. It was a political line approved after the victory of the Socialist Revolution and despite its being 65 years of age, it witnessed the changes in governments, changes in secretaries general of the party and changes in the presidents of the presidium without great changes."

As to rumors on the foreign policy of his country, he quotes statements by Andropov where it is pointed out that because there are different systems of government in the world today, that does not mean that each country cannot live in peace, defending its way of life and its ideas.

How do the Soviets view bilateral relations with Brazil? Officially "in a very good way despite the fact that there are sharp edges which must be smoothed." Questioned directly, the ambassador did not comment on those sharp edges but informally, over cocktails, he spoke on the subject.

In the first place, he acknowledged there was a complaint by the Soviet Government over the imbalance in trade. The Kremlin believes that Brazil always seeks to sell large amounts and does not purchase a correspondingly equal volume. This causes discontent in the Soviet Government, since more equitable trading partners are not receiving the same treatment.

Even so, its leaders believe that with the passage of time the trend in relations between the two countries can only improve on the basis of mutual understanding. And those understandings will come to be as the result of recent high level talks, primarily between Minister of Foreign Affairs Saraiva Guerreiro and Andrey Gromyko during UN General Assembly meetings. On the domestic plane, however, Chernyshev believes there is no willingness to talk because of "pockets of resistance" still remaining within the government, which even prevent official efforts.

The Soviets hope to be able to improve that relationship, also an express recommendation from his government when he was assigned to Brazil. The hope that things will improve he bases on the historical process of relations between the two countries itself. After their renewal (difficult after 1964) the first steps are being taken. There are positive factors such as the territorial size of the two countries and the influence they both have on the international scene. (Brazil is viewed as a prominent country in the so-called Third World.) That should expand talks in the economic, trade and technological field, primarily because of the need the nations have in a world of crisis of seeking new paths in the search for solutions for their problems.

The Soviets also know that talks on political systems must always be avoided. However, they believe that in the area of broader ideas such as the international situation and Brazilian demands for a more fair international economic order, there is a great field for positive talks. They expect to become Brazilian "partners" in the international dialog because they believe that both countries have much to say.

On the Brazilian side, in the informal opinion of the ambassador, it appears that the situation has not changed much toward a climate of good will with respect to the partnership, although there is free access to talks with the high echelons of government. While there are data which indicate some improvement, such as the constant exchange of visits by trade missions from both countries, there are other negative indications which show the domestic preoccupation of Brazil with "balancing the scales" as an argument for turning to more anticommunist areas, not giving a great deal of encouragement for a rapprochement with his country.

According to Chernyshev, one specific fact illustrates this situation: The attempt by the Soviet press to cover the Brazilian elections without obtaining the entry of special correspondents because of lack of approval by Itamaraty. The fact is recalled with some regret because on the day that Brezhnev's death was announced, the Brazilian elections were the only outstanding international event contained in the PRAVDA mourning edition. The paper devoted a fourth of one of its six pages to the Brazilian electoral process. The Soviets say that if the request made by the government for the issuance of credentials to some political analysts so that they could follow the Brazilian elections--to which Itamaraty did not reply--had been approved, that coverage would have been much greater. Even so, based only on what was sent by TASS Agency correspondents living in Brazil, the state television network devoted space to our elections.

8908

CSO: 3342/49

TEST BENCH FIRING OF SONDA IV ENGINE SUCCESSFUL

Brasilia CORREIO BRAZILIENSE in Portuguese 11 Dec 82 p 5

[Text] With the success of "Operation Orion," the first test of the heavy modular 1:1 engine of the Sonda IV on the test bench of the propellant plant this week in Varadouro, Sao Jose dos Campos, the Brazilian aerospace community believes it has taken a great step in the program of scientific rocket probes of the Space Activities Institute (IAE). Specific objectives of the test were evaluation of the behavior of the engine during the burn, learning the structural performance of the engine bench and holddown devies during engine operation and evaluation of the system for presenting data from the test bench instruments.

The heavy modular 1:1 engine of the Sonda IV has a length of five meters, a diameter of 1.028 meters and carries 3.848 kg of propellant. During its first test, measurements were taken of the parameters of its pressures, 11 temperatures were taken at several points, readings were taken of thrust, engine distortions, vibration and stresses.

A family of rockets for scientific probes, which receives the name "Sonda," and which is being developed by the IAE in Sao Jose dos Campos, includes the development of four projects with several stages. Sonda I was specifically designed for Program Exametnet of meteorological soundings. It had a capacity for carrying useful loads of 5 kg to altitudes of from 70 to 120 km. The Sonda II has already shown it is capable of carrying useful loads of from 20 to 50 kg to altitudes of from 120 to 200 km, while the Sonda III has a capability of carrying a useful load of 50 kg to an altitude of 500 km.

Project Sonda IV, whose main objective is that of providing the entire human and industrial infrastructure with knowledge of the science and technology that will permit Brazil to have its own satellite launching vehicle in the near future, will be based on two basic parameters: the use of the first stage of the Sonda III as the second stage and as a basic propulsive force of a satellite launching vehicle.

8908

CSO: 3342/49

IMPROVEMENT IN IMBALANCE OF TRADE WITH IRAQ FORESEEN

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 29 Dec 82 p 21

[Text] Ministry of Mines and Energy technicians announced yesterday that the imbalance in trade between Brazil and Iraq, which favors the latter by more than \$1.1 billion per year because of the sales of 160,000 barrels of petroleum per day to Brazil, will be reduced in 1983. According to those technicians, Iraq is interested in buying 600,000 tons of soybeans to be provided over five years, in addition to 10,000 tons of rice and 40,000 tons of corn.

Negotiations were begun last month during the Joint Brazil-Iraq Commission meetings. At that time, according to Ministry of Mines and Energy technicians, the Iraqi Government also showed an interest in importing rice and paper pulp from Brazil. In addition, the Brazilian Government offers the Iraqis 5,000 tons of palm nut oil per year, and meat and poultry in larger quantities than Iraq now imports from Brazil.

The Brazilian Government also initiated negotiations with Iraq for the sale of sugar in as yet not stipulated quantities; 1.8 million tons of iron ore per year, manganese dioxide, zinc, iron and steel products and Volkswagen passenger cars.

During the joint commission meeting, the Iraqi Government announced that the Brazilian company Mendes Junior has been accepted as a bidder in the public auction of bids for the construction of the Baghdad railway loop and that it is studying a proposal by the Metro Company of Sao Paulo for the construction of three tunnels in Iraq. The Iraqi Government is also studying another proposal by the Mendes Junior Company for the construction of a railway that will link Baghdad with Basra.

The Brazilian construction company also proposes to build a large irrigation canal called the main canal. The Iraqi Government is studying the subject.

Ministry of Mines and Energy technicians who provided this information did not know the total amount involved in these negotiations with Iraq. They said however, that if they result in specific action they will reduce the imbalance in trade between the two countries considerably. The amount of Brazilian exports to Iraq in the first half of this year totalled only \$179 million and the imports of Iraqi petroleum were over \$1.3 billion.

In 1979, before its war with Iran, Iraq was the largest supplier of petroleum to Brazil, with a daily average of 389,596 barrels. The following year that average declined to 274,500 barrels and as the war is prolonged, it continues to decline to the point that this year it has been reduced to 160,000 barrels daily. Saudi Arabia became the largest supplier of petroleum to Brazil as of the end of 1979.

8908

CSO: 3342/49

VIEIRA: BREAKUP OF MAS NECESSARY BEFORE TALKS

Havana GRANMA WEEKLY REVIEW in English 12 Dec 82 p 11

[Article by J.G. Guma]

[Text]

● GILBERTO VIEIRA, general secretary of the Communist Party of Colombia, has said that in order to have meaningful negotiations with the guerrillas following the recent passage of the amnesty law, the government headed by Belisario Betancur must expose and break up the paramilitary organization Death to Kidnappers (MAS).

In a Havana press conference, Vieira, who also holds a seat in the House of Representatives, said he was optimistic about the possibilities for a "democratic opening" announced by the new president. But he explained he remains alert and not unduly optimistic, in spite of the popular support for this measure, because imperialism and reaction are also active. Vieira is visiting Cuba in response to an invitation from the Party's Central Committee.

He noted that two years ago at its congress the Communist Party said there were chances for a democratic opening in Colombia.

He presented a detailed report on the situation in Colombia and said the amnesty is an important victory for revolutionary and democratic forces, since it makes possible the immediate release of most political prisoners.

The Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) and the April 19th Movement (M-19) have outlined their position on the measure and demanded a truce or armistice.

The communist leader was optimistic about the "possibility of a democratic and anti-imperialist alliance" and said his organization will strive for unity. "We will

seek agreement with various sectors. The outlook for unity is better now. There is more possibility of united action and a chance for a united front. We don't want to limit the alliance to revolutionary sectors alone."

He affirmed that "events in Colombia are increasingly important" and that lately there have been nearly 50 strikes with the participation of more than a million people, related to the struggle against high electricity rates, the policies imposed by the International Monetary Fund and other issues.

Asked about the Colombian economy, he said it was very critical and that Betancur is trying to change prevailing economic policy by adopting measures to stimulate the industrial sector. He said the president is backed by sectors of the big industrial bourgeoisie and to some degree clashes with the financial sector.

Vieira asserted that faced by the crisis, the government is responding in the usual capitalist manner by demanding that workers "tighten their belts," ruling that wage increases must be lower than the rise in the cost of living. This means there will be class confrontations on various levels.

He said Betancur has shown signs of favoring relations with Cuba with talk of inviting Cuba to participate in the upcoming meeting of Latin American foreign ministers and heads of state.

Also at the press conference were Mario Upegui, member of the Central Executive Committee of the Communist Party of Colombia and councilman from Bogotá, and Manuel Cepeda, editor of *Voz Proletaria*, the official organ of the Party.

MRP CRITICIZES PRESIDENT REAGAN'S VISIT

San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 26 Nov 82 p 21C

[Paid Advertisement: "A New National Campaign for a New Republic"]

[Text] "Let us unite in order to render tyranny and license impossible. Unity is strength and independence. Thus do we give root to peace, justice, and progress. Thus do we obtain the sympathy and respect of the great nations who now look upon us with disdain, pity, or contempt." Juan Rafael Mora, 1856.

Central America's road is the road of brotherhood and respectability. It is the road marked out for us by our forefather, contrary to the politics of the new filibusters who seek to spread war and violence in Central America.

The United States Government has given more than 140 million dollars in aid to Honduras.

The United States has also announced that it will resume military aid to the Rios Montt regime in Guatemala, the same regime which Amnesty International has accused of assassinating more than 2,600 Indians in the last 3 months.

But the clearest expression of U.S. policy against the achievement of peace is in El Salvador. The popular Salvadoran forces, headed by the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front and the Revolutionary Democratic Front, have issued a proposal for direct negotiations to find a political solution to the conflict. This proposal, favorably received by the Catholic Church and the Christian Democrats of El Salvador, has been rejected by the Magana regime and D'Abuisson. Ronald Reagan rejects it as well. They do not seek to "give root to peace, justice, and progress" in Central America.

In Nicaragua, amidst enormous difficulties, the people have been taught to read and write. A program of real agrarian reform is underway there, and rapid advances are being made in improving health and living conditions.

Meanwhile Reagan denies Nicaragua loans, and boycotts the country economically. He publicly admits to having applied 19 million dollars to finance Somozists and destabilize the legitimate government. Together with Honduras, he carried out provocative military maneuvers near Nicaraguan territory.

This reality is the context for Reagan's visit to our country.

How can we believe that a visit by Ronald Reagan is a step toward peace and progress? How can justice be fulfilled if the facts show that he is interested only in spreading his warlike policy against the Central American nations?

In our own country, significant groups have declared themselves in favor of peace and dialogue. Among them is a considerable number of congressional deputies. Vice President Fait himself, in answering the position paper issued by these congressmen in favor of dialogue to resolve the Salvadoran conflict, remarked: "When a statement such as that you have prepared seeks the establishment of peace through dialogue in a brother country, it becomes an obligation. We are pleased to offer our mediation in order to achieve this noble end."

We wonder, then, how President Monge and his minister Fernando Volio will respond to these statements? Why are they silent in the face of the Salvadoran people's call for negotiations? Are they in favor of peace and dialogue, or of war?

Can the Costa Rican nation win respect if Luis Alberto Monge and Fernando Volio choose the way of submission to those who look upon us with disdain and contempt? Can this be the way that leads to Central American unity and brotherhood, the way taken by Santamaria, Mora, and Canas in 1856?

Luis Alberto Monge and Fernando Volio are confused as to who the enemy is. The enemy is not our brothers in Nicaragua, dedicated to the reconstruction of their fatherland, nor our brothers in El Salvador and Guatemala, whose blood and sacrifice is opening the road to justice and progress; nor our brothers in Honduras, oppressed by repression and hunger.

Our enemies are they who divide the Central American nations and try to set them against one another. Our enemies are they who betray those Central American ideals for which the area's nations in 1856 confronted and defeated the adventurers who sought to subdue them and subject them to their purposes.

Is it perhaps the case that all the traditions, the values, the good and healthy things that have shaped us as a people and as a nation, have been laid to one side? Will we see the fulfillment of Walker's prediction that what could not be accomplished by the gun would be accomplished by the dollar?

Let us raise the banner of peace; let us reject warlike policies; let us seek brotherhood and harmony in Central America. Let us reject the adventurers who, with their dollars and their weapons, seek to buy out or crush our dignity and our values. "Let Us Learn To Be Free Men, Not Lowly Servants."

Political Commission of the
People's Revolutionary Movement [MRP]

9839

CSO: 3248/361

COORDINATION AMONG CDR, FMC, ANAP NOTED

Havana GRANMA in Spanish 18 Nov 82 p 3

[Article by Diana Sosa]

[Text] The importance of good coordination among the CDR [Committee for the Defense of the REvolution], FMC [Federation of Cuban Women] and the ANAP [National Association of Small Farmers] in the preparation, accomplishment and control of the political study circles was underscored during the FMC national seminar on ideological orientation that is underway at the Fe del Valle Cadre School of the women's organization in this capital.

Yolanda Ferrer, member of the Central Committee of our Communist Party and secretary of ideology of the federation, explained the 1983 work plan in the area of political studies. She pointed out that its main goal is to promote the ideological development of the members and leaders of the FMC by means of a study program that will provide the basic elements of the Marxist-Leninist theory, the principles of our revolution, and the line set down by our party for the construction of socialism.

Emphasis was placed on the need for the study circle instructors to attend all the seminars, their thorough study of each subject that they must bring up with the masses, and the role that the instructors' aids must play in the development of the circles.

In a special address, Rodobaldo Diaz, deputy chief of the Department of Internal Education of the Central Committee, stated that the solution to the problems that may arise depends on a good coordination at the grass-roots organization. He explained that the CDR, the FMC and the ANAP have the joint responsibility of ensuring control of the attendance and participation of its members in the study circles, and he pointed out that this activity conforms to a unique plan for the three mass organizations. This, he said, has the advantage of requiring less instructors, which makes it possible to prepare them better in the seminars. The aids also have been organized to deal more thoroughly with various aspects of each subject, and to prepare questions which contribute to the debate and to the amenity of the sessions.

Dora Carcano, member of the party Central Committee and secretary general of the FMC, and other members of the National Secretariat of the organization presided over the first workday of the seminar, which also discussed a plan concerning solidarity for next year.

JOB OF IMPLEMENTING WORK PLANS DESCRIBED

Havana TRABAJADORES in Spanish 10 Dec 82 p 4

[Article by Bernardo Rodriguez]

[Text] The economic education of the workers is a task of primary importance for the trade union movement.

Information and directions to the workers to promote the fulfillment of the goals of production and services represent an essential aspect of the endeavors of trade unions, as is the application of the socialist principle of the masses' participation in the discussion and execution of plans.

This task is carried out in various ways, one of which is the method of agitation and propaganda [agit-prop] for the economic education of the workers, in which the workers' movement in the entire country is involved.

To promote effectively the economic education of the workers, major emphasis has been placed on agitation and propaganda on the basis of the socialist concept of the use of these principles.

Consequently, it is the information secretariat of the base trade union section which has to bear the major burden of the task, namely, to make this education available to the working masses.

This matter calls for some comments.

Elaboration of a Work Plan.

First, the information secretary at the base has to draft a plan which, after being examined and approved by the trade union executive, should constitute a guide to executing the tasks.

The general goals to be included in this plan are the responsibility of the immediately higher organ, that is, the municipal trade union or the corresponding enterprise executive office. But these goals or outlines are no more than that, very general goals which one should strive to pursue. At the base it is necessary to take these general goals and adapt them to the workplace's own circumstances.

On many occasions the plan is drafted in a deficient manner by the information officials of the trade union sections. Generally, the text of the plan drafted by the higher organs is merely copied.

This plan, which must contain a series of tasks to be fulfilled on the basis of the conditions prevailing at each workplace, appears to be drawn up in a vague manner, outlining a set of tasks to be achieved by doing merely this--listing the tasks that must be done.

The goal of the informational plan is not merely to specify what is to be implemented but also how the job is to be done.

How and With What Means To Publicize.

In dozens of plans scrutinized in the trade union sections the following, among other points, appear:

--To publicize the plan for health safety measures at the workplace.

This is all very well, but

How will this plan of measures to be taken be publicized?

What informational means are to be used for publicizing them? Who is responsible for this task?

The information official in the trade union section is in a position to use effective means to make meaningful efforts in the education and information of the workers. Among these one finds the bulletin board, radio, the newsletter, meetings, discussions, and study circles, to list only a few.

Let's now consider an appropriate example of how to present the tasks in an informational plan. Let's use the item of publicizing the means for health safety at the workplace, but handle it in this way:

--Support the implementation of the measures for health safety at the workplace. For this purpose the following should be done:

--Post the measures directed to be followed on the bulletin board at the workplace;

--Place handbills and signs, suitably drawn up, at workplaces deemed to be dangerous;

--Maintain a systematic publicity campaign on radio regarding safety measures to be followed by the worker at his workplace;

--Mention at the production meeting and list on the bulletin board the names of comrades who do not have their health booklets, urging them to get these;

--Have the department head hold discussions with all his workers on safety and hygiene in the enterprise, on ways to insure personal safety and the importance of their appropriate use.

Also, make many other suggestions using the activists, the agitation and propaganda brigade, the newsletter of the workplace, presentations using appropriate means, and so on to implement them.

This plan can include the name of the individual responsible for the execution of the task, his responsibilities, and the date of implementation.

The Plan Has To Be Adapted.

It is the duty of the information official of the trade union section to "adapt" these tasks to the circumstances of the workplace, as we mentioned earlier.

Not to do so but merely to take directions "from above" would make such a plan lose its "raison d'etre" and it would then become a catalogue of general directives which would tell nothing to the worker about the problems that really beset him.

In conclusion, the information secretariat of the trade union section should implement its publicity plan basing itself on the actual circumstances of its workplace, should take a practical view of the tasks to be performed and how to implement them, that is, should indicate the publicity means to be used to involve all the workers of the center, a genuine guide in their endeavors.

That is how a useful and functional plan will be produced, a genuine guide for their work.

2662

CSO: 3248/396

SELECTION, TRAINING OF INTERNATIONALIST TEACHERS NOTED

Havana GRANMA in Spanish 26 Nov 82 pp 1, 4

[Article By Georgina Jimenez]

[Text] The importance which the selection and training of teachers at all levels and in all types of education has for the country means that the improvement of the ways and methods of achieving them should be a permanent task.

The Manuel Ascunce Domenech Educational Detachment has represented ever since its establishment a new way of solving the critical situation brought about by the abrupt increase in enrollment at the intermediate educational level at a time when centers of a new type based on the work-study principle at that educational level were expanded in Cuba's countryside.

The imperious need to train thousands of youths intensively as teachers brought about the fact that the entrance level set was the 10th grade and that its members would simultaneously pursue their studies and teach classes while in the secondary and preuniversity levels.

Beginning in 1977-78, as a consequence of the application of the proficiency plan and the fact that we had a considerable larger number of graduates from the 12th grade, the licentiate of education was created whose admission level corresponds to the preuniversity level with a duration that was first set at 4 years, subsequently increased to 5 years beginning with this academic year, and with the proviso that students for the licentiate would not teach at the same time.

In the present circumstances and as part of the efforts that have been made to constantly improve the caliber of our teachers in general as a fundamental premise in our effort to raise the quality of education, it becomes possible and necessary to introduce some changes in the requirements for joining the educational detachment, considering the positive experiences derived from the screening process of the Carlos J. Finlay Medical Sciences Detachment.

To join the [educational] detachment the standard procedure remains that of having students of preuniversity 12th grade meet the established requirements

and apply for entry. An alternate route is for students to enroll in an advanced educational institution without joining the detachment first and for them to meet the requirements established for that purpose while they attend that institution of higher education.

Process of Adaptation

In the 10th grade the organization of the pre-detachment instruction will be initiated and this will continue in the 11th and 12th grades until the definitive establishment of the prestigious entity. In the 12th grade the process of adaptation with other students outside of the medical sciences will be intensified. A broad professional curriculum will be drafted in all pedagogical specialties with priority in mathematics, chemistry, physics, and labor education.

In these specialties more direct work will be done with students having a good academic index and in parallel manner a program will be established to focus on the centers where those demobilized from the SMA [military service] pursue preparatory studies--centers which represent another route of entry, an alternative which is becoming more important every year.

Requirements

1. A student should have a minimum index of 85 points in the 10th and 11th grades and in the first semester of the 12th grade. Where the students select the specialties of Marxism-Leninism-history, languages, or scholarships abroad, their indexes in the 10th and 11th grades will be considered. (For male students, such admission will be premised on the results of the academic work of those accepted for higher education.)
2. A student should not have repeated any grade at the preuniversity level for an unjustified reason.
3. A student needs to have the approval of his students' union certifying the political-moral status of the applicant seeking to enter the [teaching] profession.
4. The student cannot have physical or mental defects impeding the applicant's exercise of the profession.
5. The student must be prepared unconditionally and permanently to serve the revolution in any part of Cuban territory or in any country.

Selection Process

The granting of approval to those students who seek to join the educational detachment will be made on the basis of the political-moral evaluation for all students in the 12th grade in a form similar to that applying to those in the Medical Sciences Detachment.

For those students who meet the requirements, the process of interview will be followed and the candidate who is approved will complete the admission application for his sought-after pedagogical specialties. But the applicant will not be allowed to fill in any other application form for admission to higher education.

The specialties of Marxism-Leninism-history and languages call for additional requirements and these applicants are processed in the period noted for that purpose in the calendar of advanced education. Those students who opt for pedagogical specialties abroad will have to meet the same requirements of the educational detachment and, additionally, the requirements set for the said scholarships, except the academic index which will be maintained at 85 points, with the exception applying to male applicants mentioned earlier.

In the case of the mathematics, physics, chemistry, and labor education (national) specialties, enrollment efforts will be pressed directly among the best students and teaching slots will be assigned on an individual basis in order to meet the needs of each province, according to the plan. The rest of the students will be assigned teaching slots through the automated screening process on the basis of their academic index. Teaching positions will be guaranteed for those enrolled in the educational detachment provided male candidates meet the admission standards set for higher education.

For Those Who Join Advanced Educational Institutions Following the Formation of the Educational Detachment

Those students who seek to enter advanced educational institutions but are not enrolled in the educational detachment will have to meet the requirements for entering this type of center. In place of their students unions' approval, the political-moral evaluations that they obtained at their preuniversity institution will be considered. Furthermore, they will have to pass an interview with the teachers' committees of the advanced educational institutions.

Once a student has been admitted to one of these centers, he/she will undergo the process of admission into the detachment, taking into account the following requirements: Maintaining an appropriate attitude in all of the center's activities; having the approval of the students' union which certifies his/her political-moral status to belong to this movement; being unconditionally and permanently prepared to serve the revolution in any part of Cuban territory or in any country.

At the advanced pedagogical institutions themselves the process of admission will continue during the first 2 years. The students' assemblies for communist education will analyze the records of these students and will grant approval to join the educational detachment to those comrades who meet the required conditions. Continued attendance at an advanced pedagogical institution will be conditioned by the student's political-moral conduct and his/her aptitudes for the [teaching] profession.

FMC PLENARY REVIEW MEETING RESULTS DESCRIBED

Havana GRANMA in Spanish 10 Nov 82 p 3

[Article by Diana Sosa]

[Text] Some 51 percent of the leaders of the Federation of Cuban Women (FMC) in the delegations and 60 percent in the blocks were ratified in the course of the meeting to review, renew or confirm the mandates held in all the provinces of the country, which is considered a favorable outcome by the leadership of the women's organization.

The foregoing was disclosed by the report of the 5th Plenum of the National Committee of the FMC, which met at the Ernest Thaelman Hall of the Central Organization of Cuban Trade Unions (CTC) and was presided over by Vilma Espin, deputy member of the Politburo of our Communist Party and president of the women's organization. The plenum also rendered a report on the international work and the economic tasks of the organization in the first semester, and discussed the joint tasks with the FAR [Revolutionary Armed Forces] and the results of the collection to help finance the Territorial Troops Militia (MTT). Moreover, an analysis was made of the federation members' compliance with the decisions of the Second Party Congress and the Third Congress of the women's organization.

It was found out that 55, 714 gatherings took place in the delegations in the course of the meeting, which constitute a 100 percent attainment, and the attendance was 77 percent of the membership. All the provinces and municipalities attained more than 70 percent attendance.

In the report to the plenum, it is stressed that the selection of delegates to the provincial assemblies was made by the grassroots organizations for the first time, and the effort exerted to make the meetings more successful was acknowledged. The members of the national committee of the federation underscored the support given to the event by the party and the political and mass organizations, and expressed that it helped to propel remarkably the work plan of the FMC in the first semester of this year.

Vilma Espin pointed out that the politico-cultural level attained by the women was evinced in the proposals made in thousands of addresses of the members of the federation, who analyzed at the grassroots organizations not

not only the problems of the women's federation, but also those concerning the community.

The implementation of the decisions of the Second Party Congress and the Third FMC Congress was viewed as very favorable. At this point, the plenum dealt with topics related to the full exercise of women's equality, insisting on the need to continue waging a tough battle against all vestiges of discrimination, prejudice and unjust attitudes about women's advancement.

A full analysis was made of the rate of advancement of women in the People's Government and state organizations, emphasizing the need that the best be always selected, whether man or woman, by means of a correct evaluation that does not discriminate against the female colleagues.

The plenum placed special emphasis on the unequal evaluations that still are occasionally made when men and women are judged, particularly when dealing with aspects known as "moral problems," which constitute a strong remnant of macho customs and the backwardness that needs to be eliminated in our society.

The work in the international sphere was described as ample, thorough and favorable. The enthusiastic participation of the members of the federation in the various tasks was stressed in the analysis of the joint work with the FAR. It was reported that about 400,000 pesos were collected to help finance the MTT, and that the members of the federation will contribute 255,000 pesos next year by means of a 20-cent quota.

8414

CSO: 3248/347

MACHADO VENTURA SPEAKS AT PARTY FOUNDERS EVENT

Havana GRANMA in Spanish 1 Nov 82 p 2

[Text of speech by Jose Ramon Machado Ventura, member of the Politburo of the PCC, at the event of the conferment of the party founders' certificates held at the Central Committee's quarters on 30 October 1982]

Dear Comrades:

With the simplicity that usually attends the moments of profound political significance and importance, and in an atmosphere of fraternal intimacy, we perform the honorable assignment of conferring the Communist Party of Cuba (PCE) founders' certificate to a group of distinguished revolutionary fighters whose lives embody the combative trajectory of the working class and all our people, from the luminous days of the founding of the first Marxist-Leninist party to the liberating epic that began with the attack on the Moncada Garrison.

The men and women whom we formally acknowledge today as being among the founders of the revolutionary vanguard of the Cuban people, as part of the process that is taking place throughout the country, fully meet the requirements stated in Article 13 of the Party Statutes. It is a motley group, if we consider the differences in ages, social background, the setting and the manner in which the struggle has taken place, and the revolutionary task of each individual. But it is at the same time, and above all, a worthy representation of faithfulness to the revolution, of trust in the masses, of ideological steadfastness, and of the human quality of the communist cadres and militants who have decisively contributed to the founding of the PCC.

The Central Committee acknowledges in the party founders more than the precedence in joining its ranks. We pay homage with this distinction to the revolutionaries who have dedicated most of their lives, sometimes from very early adolescence and under dangerous and difficult conditions, to fight with all the means at their disposal for the liberation of their people; who have helped educate, organize and prepare the masses to achieve higher goals; who have put their lives in jeopardy on more than one occasion; who know and have personally suffered hunger, economic straits for themselves and the members of their families; who have endured the bitter days

of prison; and who have seen their brothers fall heroically in unequal combat.

As an expression of the singularities of the historical process of the Cuban revolution and the crucible that our party constitutes, we fortunately have among you distinguished anti-imperialist fighters from age 20, attackers of the Moncada Garrison, members of the Granma expedition, combatants of the sierra and the plain, and combatants of Giron. We have among you those who proclaimed the need to fight to achieve the victory of the working class and were the illustrious standardbearers of Marxism-Leninism, and the combatants of the Rebel Army and of clandestinity, forgers of the popular triumph of January, together, united, fraternally bound by the glorious cause of socialism and communism.

A party founder is, therefore, one who struggled to achieve that victory and who remained for these past 23 years on the front line of the battle to construct, consolidate and defend the socialist fatherland.

Colleague Fidel Castro, First Secretary of the Central Committee, quite justifiably has said:

"This party was born from two essential, fundamental, inestimable factors: the union of all revolutionaries, the unity attained to such a high degree as never before in the history of our country; that unity which combatants coveted for almost a century from the struggles of Yara to the heroic battles against the Machado regime, and which our generation attained for the first time organized into a vanguard party, a party that is the continuer of the one which the first communists, with Balino and Mella, established in our country; and a scientific doctrine, a politico-revolutionary philosophy--Marxism-Leninism."

The PCE effectively emerges as a result of the closest union of all the revolutionary forces that bore the decisive brunt of the fight against the infamous regime of Batista. Actively and prominently participating in this operation were the 26 July Movement, essential historic outcome of the Moncada feat and main detachment of the insurrectional process; the Rebel Army, on whom the decisive effort befell from the standpoint of the armed struggle and the destruction of the bureaucratic-military and repressive machinery of the tyranny; as well as the Popular Socialist Party, the 13 March Revolutionary Directorate and the Socialist Youth, whose ideas, principles and battle plans converged in the objectives of obtaining the real and definitive independence of our country.

These combat organizations arising from the midst of the people not only managed to defeat the proimperialist tyranny and to guarantee the takeover of political power by the people, but also contributed in the first 2 years following the triumph of the armed insurrection, with their prolific organizational, political and ideological work, to the consolidation and intensification of the revolution until its socialist character was proclaimed as they were incorporated into its vanguard party.

The high point in the Ideological Intensification of the revolution and the masses was, undoubtedly, the battle and victory against the mercenaries who, armed, trained, equipped, financed and supported by Yankee imperialism, landed at Playa Giron. As Fidel said: "The Socialist nature of our revolution was proclaimed at Giron; our party was practically forged at Giron. At that time, we were precisely engaged in the task of uniting the revolutionary forces into a single organization, under one command. We can say, therefore, that coinciding with the moment when we were carrying out this task, our party was forged. That is why," he added, "16 April is considered the date of the proclamation of the socialist character of our revolution, the date of the founding of our party."

Therefore, 16 April 1961 was the founding date of our party, which would have as its main task the ensuring of the historic continuity of the revolution, and the construction of socialism and communism in our country.

Comrades: We know with that love and legitimate pride you will keep and bequeath to your descendants this document that has been presented to you today, and which is all the more dear and memorable because it bears the signature of the inspirer and leader of the assault on the Moncada Garrison, founder of the 26 July Movement, organizer of the armed, struggle, creator of the Rebel Army, founder of the PCE and the first socialist state in the Western Hemisphere, symbol of a new era in the struggle of the countries for their national independence, for the triumph of the socialist and the communist cause, and for the boon of peace for all mankind--our chief and mentor, comrade Fidel Castro.

As he has taught us, true communists, from the time of the Paris Commune to date, have been characterized by their heroism. No one in history ever surpassed them in capacity for sacrifice, spirit of solidarity, dedication, selflessness and determination to give their lives for their cause.

Thus, we want each and all of you to be the militants of our party, and that in order to maintain that attitude, you will always be inspired by the example of its founders, of whom we are sincerely proud.

Congratulations, dear comrades.

Thank you.

8414

CSO: 3248/341

RODRIGUEZ LLOMPART CLOSES FOREIGN SERVICE GRADUATION

Havana GRANMA in Spanish 4 Nov 82 p 3

[Article by Jose M. Norniella]

[Text] The fourth commencement of the Higher Institute of International Relations (ISRI), dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the birth of Georgi Dimitrov, was held yesterday at the Jacinto Torras Theater of the Ministry of Foreign Trade in this capital.

The closing of the ceremony was done by Hector Rodriguez Llompart, member of the party Central Committee and chairman of the CECE [State Committee for Economic Cooperation], who announced the decision of the party Secretariat to approve the proposal of the MINREX [Ministry of Foreign Relations] to have the ISRI bear the name of Raul Roa.

Rodriguez Llompart pointed out how the current policy of Reagan has halted the process of relaxation that had been started some years ago and taken the path of military buildup and interference, to bring the world to the brink of a nuclear catastrophe of unforeseen consequences for mankind.

He referred also to the economic situation confronting the underdeveloped countries, which are being refused all sorts of aid, are being charged more for manufactured products, are being denied new income by keeping the prices of their raw materials at very low levels, are having interests on loans raised, and are having the doors closed on their foreign trade by the protectionist policy of the developed capitalist countries. This situation has brought about a disproportionate growth in the huge foreign debt of the underdeveloped countries to a total of \$500 billion.

Rodriguez Llompart said also that the nonaligned countries have emphasized Cuba's role as president of the movement and, in particular, the performance of comrade Fidel Castro during the past few years.

Finally, he recalled how the MINREX was established during the revolutionary period and how it managed to defend the Cuban revolution with its cadres at all times, and underscored the role played by Raul Roa in the UN first, and at the head of that ministry later.

Among others presiding over the graduation ceremony were Isidoro Malmierca, member of the Central Committee and minister of foreign affairs; Manuel Estefania, interim minister of foreign trade; Salvador Vilaseca, rector of the ISRI, who opened the act with a detailed report of the session coming to a close and the institution as a whole; and Ilia Dinkov, charge d'affaires of the Bulgarian Embassy in Cuba, who congratulated the graduates and emotionally expressed appreciation for the dedication of the commencement to the Bulgarian hero Georgi Dimitrov.

The farewell address to the graduates was delivered by Jorge A. Arias, president of the FEU [Federation of University Studies] in the ISRI. The oath was read by Bernardo Toscano, who was chosen as the vanguard student.

8414

CSO: 3248/341

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE'S ADDRESS TO BANANA GROWERS

Roseau THE NEW CHRONICLE in English 27 Nov, 4 Dec 82

[27 Nov 82 p 4]

[Text]

Minister of Agriculture Heskeith Alexander on Tuesday addressed Banana Growers over DBS Radio on the issue surrounding the reorganisation of the Banana Industry. For the information of the public at large we carry the full text of the Minister's address in two consecutive issues.

Fellow Farmers:

For the first time in Dominica we see democracy at work. Let us hope this trend will continue.

The Banana Industry continues and will continue to get deeper and deeper into financial difficulties until the farmers, the DBCA, Government and all those involved in this vital industry come to grips with its problems.

The problems in the DBCA were identified as far back as 1975, through a Board of Inquiry headed by Mr. Victor Josse and assisted by Clem Ferreira, Anthony Frederick Joseph and Norman Rolle. How many farmers ever heard of or have seen this report? Also, offers for loans from CDB were refused in 1975. The report recommended among others as follows: "This is not merely rhetoric or a gimmick. We have given this matter close and careful consideration and after deliberating at length as to the form of organisation best suited to the essential needs of the present time have come unanimously to the conclusion that it is a corporation limited by shares."

The report went on to say "we would see no objection to steps being taken

actively and enthusiastically by the Association to foster and promote the growth of co-operatives among banana growers, particularly in the areas of tillage, planting and production of bananas as well as boxing operation in suitable localities, but we do not recommend that the Association itself be organised along co-operative lines."

Another relevant recommendation was "we strongly recommend two major lines of reform. One is the formation of an Industrial Company or Corporation limited by shares. The second is that the corporation be managed by a technically trained managerial team in the first instance."

The Report concluded:

"If we give the impression that we take life with deadly seriousness, it is because we are more than ever anxious that the Banana Industry and our fellow countrymen should survive. We have set out the facts and given our ideas and suggestions for improving the efficiency of the Association with impartiality and independent judgement. In seeking to build a better organisation we should not expect that things will be easy. It will take drive and determination, well

directed work, courageous enterprise and above all good management. We do not, of course, expect everyone to agree with our findings but we may be permitted to say—in the words of Sir Winston Churchill:

"The truth is incontrovertible.

Panic may resent it.

Ignorance may deride it.

Malice may distort it.

But there it is."

Yes fellow farmers, there it is, the problems as identified in the Banana Industry since 1975 and the recommendations to solve them still remain.

What has been done? Why was the report not implemented or made public? Failure to do so resulted with the Leaf Spot Crisis in 1977 which marked the demise of the Banana Industry. This issue became a national crisis and farmers, school children and concerned citizens marched through the streets of Roseau calling for the resignation of the people who were responsible for the problems. We remember the chant was - "Down DBGA, not the bananas, not the farmers." While temporary measures were taken by getting rid of some of the culprits and by paying the farmers for cut backs, the problems increased as dishonesty was rampant. Still, no attempt was made to get to the root of the matter and so the problems began to multiply.

Then came hurricane "DAVID", and it was like old "mas". Promise of \$200.00 per acre, claims for non existing acreages, long periods of "mamaguy" for balance of \$200, did not pay \$200, directive to pay a 19c a pound, and so it went on until time caught up with them, found them wanting, and left them hunting.

The "winds of change", as they were called, brought about a change of Government, whose primary role was to repair the damages, both man-made and natural, at home

and abroad.

This is being done with excellence as is clearly demonstrated in various ways. Our image abroad is at its record best as testified by the amount of aid being received; the attention being given to roads including feeder roads, water supply and electricity; the attention being given to education - building of schools, increased numbers of scholarships made available, building of new health centres and emphasis on health care in general; the introduction of real low cost housing, the democratic way of administration of law and order, and most important the ability in financial rectitude is testimony of the seriousness with which we have taken this tedious task of nation building.

The participation of the citizens both here and abroad during our Fourth Independence Anniversary Celebrations coupled with the success of the National Community Service Day reiterate the level of responsibility and unity existing among Dominicans and which augurs well for the future.

We have mustered the courage to tackle the root of the problems of this vital Banana Industry which have been allowed to become cancerous. To eradicate the problems call for joint efforts as is being sought. The main problem in the Industry is that of finance. Everyone has recognised this and a concerted effort is being made to rectify it.

The Prime Minister who is also the Minister for finance was able to attract some grant money to salvage the Industry. Like the money for road contracts, housing and the numerous other financial contracts already signed, the prime Minister signed here in Dominica, in my presence, a financial contract to assist the financially plagued Banana Industry.

[Text]

The contract was entered into for the purpose of obtaining more money to help the Industry. The promise of additional finance was given on the basis of conditions laid down by Government for re-organisation. If this basis is rejected by the growers, the contract will not bind Government, growers or the Banana Industry. The benefit and the basis for re-organisation will be rejected at the same time.

At the offset of this address, I made mention of democracy at work. The contract was signed on the 30th September and by the 4th October the farmers were being met. For the first time the farmers are being recognised and given a chance to decide their own destiny. This method was not welcomed in some circles and so they decided to go all out to confuse the farmers' minds to their own ends.

Let me repeat that this financial contract which was signed by the Honourable Prime Minister and Minister of Finance does not bind any banana grower or other individuals unless the existing Banana Laws are changed and this has to be done in the House of Assembly and only after the growers have shown they wish it to be done. So far, it is clear that the farmers in the major banana producing areas have been misled and attention is being focussed on the contract which is not in operation at the

moment.

The crux of the matter is the bankrupt Banana Association and how to keep it, not only alive, but to enable it to bring real satisfaction to the farmers. Therefore, rejecting the grant-free money does not help the Association and the Industry. Inputs are constantly required: spray, tax, salaries, and wages etc., etc., to mention just a few.

Let me once again remind the farmers: the banana growers that they must not allow themselves to be taken for yet another ride by the same people who have been pretending that they represent their interest yet have been riding on their backs for such a long time and who are responsible to a great extent for the plight of the Industry today.

Let me encourage all Dominica Banana Grower's branches to get ready for the forthcoming Dominica Banana Grower's Association Annual General Meeting, by electing delegates to represent your interests.

Let me also encourage you to consider the plan for re-organisation as set out in the fact sheet.

I wish to end with the words of the famous Sir Winston Churchill as previously quoted.

"The truth is incontrovertible.

Panic may resent it.

Ignorance may deride it.

Malice may distort it.

But there it is."

I thank you.

GROWERS, GOVERNMENT HOLD MEETINGS ON BANANA REORGANIZATION

Roseau THE NEW CHRONICLE in English 27 Nov 82 p 3

[Text]

The district branches of banana growers of Wesley, Woodford Hill, and Calibishie met with the Prime Minister, the Minister of Agriculture, the Parliamentary Representative and Senator Philbert at Woodford Hill on Sunday afternoon (November 21st) to discuss the reorganisation of the Banana Industry.

Two speakers insisted that the Banana Industry should be controlled by Government. In reply the Ministers pointed out that the Dominica Banana Growers Association (D.B.G.A.) is not now controlled by Government but by the Board and senior staff members of the D.B.G.A.

The fear was expressed by speakers at the meeting that the boxing plants situated on private lands would pass to the owners of such private lands.

In reply the representatives of Government made it clear that the whole object was to put growers in control of boxing operations, and stated that financing was now being sought for the erection of sixteen (16) small boxing plants for the benefit of growers who wished to operate such boxing plants as co-operatives, or as private boxing plants, or by firms comprising two or three growers grouped together. Since the aim was to bring the boxing plants closer to the field, the larger boxing plants would eventually go out of use.

The general consensus was that the industry required reorganisation but not in the manner set out in the U.S. A.I.D. agreement.

The Prime Minister pointed out that the U.S. A.I.D. agreement did not set out the method by which the industry had to be reorganised but accepted the suggestions by Government for reorganisation as a basis on which grant aid would be given. It was made quite clear to the gathering that the aid package did not have to be accepted. But the question of reorganisation still remained.

A suggestion was made that the D.B.G.A. Board should be changed in the following manner: 5 grower representatives should serve on the Board, 2 representatives of Government and 2 representatives of business. No suggestion was made as to the appointment of a chairman or membership on the Board by the General Manager. No comments were made on the creation of the Banana Producers Association (B.P.A.).

In talks held at the end of the meeting with individual growers the Ministers stated that steps would be taken to bring the B.P.A. into being and the suggestion was made to the meeting that the change in membership of the D.B.G.A. Board would be given urgent consideration.

BRIEFS

FRG AID--The Federal Republic of Germany has made a significant contribution to the Government of the Commonwealth of Dominica under its Micro-project Scheme. A Suzuki Jeep so donated to the Ministry of Health has been assigned to the Castle Bruce Health Centre and its attendant clinics. It will help to strengthen transportation services for health personnel and patients there and residents in these areas will now be able to receive a higher level of medical and nursing care. The Ministry of Health has expressed its sincere thanks to the Federal Republic of Germany for this substantial gift to Dominica's Health Services at a time when the success of Primary Health Care activities depends upon community mobilization and involvement for full participation. [Roseau THE NEW CHRONICLE in English 4 Dec 82 p 2]

FRENCH ENVOY--A new French Ambassador has been assigned to Dominica. She is Ms. Claude La Fontaine who will be based in Trinidad and Tobago. Ms. La Fontaine, who arrived here on Monday 29th November on a three day official visit presented her credentials to His Excellency President Aurelius Marie and made a courtesy call on Prime Minister Mary Eugenia Charles. She also met with members of the Government Cabinet. During her visit Ms. La Fontaine, who succeeds out going French Ambassador to Dominica, Mr. Prashin de Choiseul, met with French Nationals based in Dominica. [Roseau] THE NEW CHRONICLE in English 4 Dec 82 p 2]

CSO: 3298/205

PREFECT ROBERT MIGUET INTERVIEWED ON PRESSING ISSUES

Pointe-a-Pitre FRANCE-ANTILLES in French 18 Nov 82 pp 1, 10

[Text] Mr Robert Miguët, prefect, commissioner of the Republic of Guadeloupe, held a news conference Tuesday morning concerning the most important current problems affecting our department.

First of all, concerning fishing, the prefect recalled that on the very morning of Tuesday, 16 November, the Administration of Maritime Affairs had been the object of sequestration and that he had been jostled by the demonstrators. He commented, "It is confirmed once again that certain fishermen and, I would say, certain teachers posing as fishermen, are demonstrating as professional agitators." Mr Miguët stated that he had refused to receive a delegation of deep-sea fishermen, since he had not received their telegram until five days later. It is not considered serious to make the state wait for two weeks, nor to come back sooner than was specified!

The main problem, according to the prefect, remains that of the agreement with Antigua at the beginning of December. The delegation of the CCE [expansion unknown] will go to Antigua, but beforehand, there will be new advance contacts made between Guadeloupe and this neighboring island. The other point that worries the fishermen is that of pleasure and clandestine fishermen. The former have the right to fish by law, but the latter sell fish without any legal right. It is necessary to be able to pursue them, and, for this purpose, a power boat is written into the 1983 budget. Concerning the role of providing a crew, it should be understood that this represents the social dues paid by fishermen. The government will not take over this role of crew, but it does not prevent local communities from coming to the aid of deep-sea fishermen. Finally, the reimbursement of fishermen for the fuel tax was to be taken care of within several days. Only the signature of the financial controller at the Ministry of Maritime Affairs in Paris is needed, after which a check will be established between Martinique and the Guadeloupian Credit Maritime. The prefect added that Maritime Affairs, at the request of fishermen, is in the process of completing the prefectural decree on the fishing existing in Guadeloupe, defining the quality of fishing equipment. That will have a double advantage: It will respond to the wishes of deep-sea fishermen who want to protect the ocean depths, and, in the conflict with Antigua, it will make it possible for them to compete with the Antiguan fishermen.

To conclude this important point, the prefect specified that the island of Antigua had the right to increase its territorial waters from three to 12 miles, but, on the other hand, Guadeloupian fishermen had historic rights over these fishing beds and cannot be forbidden to fish in them. For this reason, negotiations must be undertaken.

LEP [expansion unknown] Control of Banana Prices and Employment of Young People

Concerning the LEP of Capes-Terre-Belle-Eau and Le Moule, the prefect indicated that significant funds had been provided since 1981. Concerning the former, Fr 600,000 for 1981, Fr 1,200,000 to bring it up to standards, Fr 1,500,000 for the second stage of work in 1982, and Fr 2,500,000 are provided for the third stage of work in 1983. For the LEP of Le Moule, equally large sums have been designated, and it should be noted that the work of bringing it up to standards was begun by the school and that the work of the LEP is subject to the conditions resulting from the preliminary repairs of the water seal done in 1982.

The DDE [expansion unknown] is wrongly accused in this affair, Mr Miguet specified. The work is being done by a contractor. The DDE sees that the contracts are in order, gives the orders and inspects the work. But it is not up to the DDE to carry it out.

On the subject of the kitchen, which was delivered 12 years ago to the LEP of Le Moule and which has never been used, the commissioner of the Republic explained that, considering the financing of the municipal school by the FASSO [expansion unknown], it was more economical for the establishment to use the municipal cafeteria rather than have its own kitchen. But, he added, the mistake was to have bought these kitchens!

The prefect then touched on the problem of the issuing of price controls, which has been authorized since 11 November, insofar as there will be efforts to combat inflation for industrial goods under production. For distributors, the margin of increase for 1982 should not exceed 10 percent and 6.5 percent in 1983.

The commissioner of the Republic in the DOM [Overseas Departments] has the power to freeze prices by decree. For salary control, the government has informed all industrial partners that he hopes that the salary increases for 1982 will not exceed 10 percent and 8 percent for 1983.

Concerning the discontent of banana planters as a result of the increase they recently obtained, the commissioner of the Republic said, "I have never seen farmers satisfied with price controls." The 36.6 percent centimes more per kilo represents a 10 percent increase over the old price, he added. They are, thus, in line with the general situation. "As a group, they are no more penalized than anyone else!" What's more, Mr Miguet said, it does not appear that the banana in Guadeloupe is in a state of crisis. It has its problems, to be sure, but they are under control. Before the

containment, the banana paid Guadeloupian planters two centimes less than was paid to planters in Martinique, but at present the reverse is true. This is not a negligible improvement.

Finally, the prefect ended his interview with the local press by touching on the problem of the employment situation among young people. A well-supported voluntary policy is applied in Guadeloupe, he said, which in 1982 was expressed by a sum of Fr 6,500,000. There are 1,117 registered trainees at the ANPE expansion unknown, 1,500 registered young people, two-thirds of which have taken advantage of training programs. Five welcome centers have been established, as well as feelers put out in several towns. That concerns information about young people between 16 and 18 years of age. After that they can participate in orientation programs which have been increased from four to six weeks. There are also efforts toward alternate job training, internships from six months to two years and remedial programs for young people who have failed in school.

The trainees earn Fr 600 per month for the first six months and Fr 700 thereafter, and the state insures their social welfare.

For young people from 18 to 21 years old we are still in the planning stages. There will also be remedial programs to bring those who left school a long time ago up to the appropriate academic level, staggered with job training and work in a company.

9955

CSO: 3219/24

COUNTRY SECTION

GUATEMALA

BRIEFS

NEW GOVERNORS--Three new departmental governors have assumed their posts as part of the government's reorganization program. Roberto Castellanos is the new governor of Retalhuleu Department, replacing Col Pedro Meyer; Arnoldo Mencos Martinez is the new governor of Jutiapa Department, replacing Dora Argentina Herrera; and Joaquin Leon is the new governor of Santa Rosa Department, replacing Jose Maria Nieves Rustrian. [PA140232 Guatemala City DIARIO DE CENTRO AMERICA in Spanish 4 Jan 83 p 1]

CSO: 3248/420

REPORT ON DELIBERATIONS OF SUPREME CONGRESS OF PEOPLE

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 18 Dec 82 p 3

[Text]

GEORGETOWN, Guyana, Friday, (CANA) — Guyana's President Forbes Burnham has forwarded draft legislation to the Supreme Congress of the people for the establishment of a committee to stamp out corruption in the company.

Prime Minister Dr. Ptolemy Reid made the disclosure when the congress, made up of members of the National Assembly and local government bodies, resumed discussions here Tuesday on Mr. Burnham's address to its inaugural session last Friday.

Details of the Accountability Bill 1982 were not available, but the state-controlled media here said the 12-clause measure would give the committee powers to probe any matter relating to corruption or irregular practices that may be referred to it by the President. It is expected that congress will discuss the measure at a later stage.

At Tuesday's sitting, Howard London, a member of the National Congress of Democratic Organs, tabled a motion urging Mr. Burnham to take all necessary steps to smash corruption in Guyana. He also called on the National Assembly to act early on the

legislation.

Under Guyana's 1978 Constitution, the President may summon the Supreme Congress whether he feels it fit, to discuss matters of national importance and to make recommendations to him on these issues.

National and Regional Development Minister Robert Corbin and Minister of State for Internal Trade Malcolm Corrica both urged the congress to support government in its drive to wipe out the thriving parallel economy or blackmarket here.

Corrica charged that traders involved in the illegal practices, in which banned consumer items are brought into Guyana. The traders were creating unnecessary hardships for the state by purchasing large amounts of the banned items, hoarding them and selling them later for exorbitant prices, he said.

Faced with a severe foreign exchange shortage, the Guyana Government placed import restrictions on a wide range of items, including foodstuff, which led to the emergence of the parallel economy here.

W. Dipat, a local government representative of the ruling People's National Congress (PNC), called for

the establishment of a people's court to impose stiff penalties on persons found guilty of white collar crimes.

He told the Supreme Congress meeting that persons convicted of burning down public property should be punished by public flogging and death. The crime of damaging food crops should also be punished by public flogging, he added.

Opposition United Force (U.F.) parliamentary Anthony Abrahams, the only representative on the 92-member congress not a member of the PNC, attacked the Forbes Burnham Government for Guyana's present economic difficulties.

He said that deaths among children here had sharply risen, due mainly to the unavailability of wheat flour and baby foods — items placed under import restrictions.

U.F. leader Fielding Singh was absent due to illness. Parliamentarians of the official opposition People's Progressive Party (PPP) have boycotted the congress, on the grounds that it has no decision-making powers.

DRY SPELL BRINGS POWER CUTS, WATER SUPPLY PROBLEMS

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 21 Dec 82 p 3

[Text]

GEORGETOWN, Guyana, Monday, (CANA) — Power cuts and a dry spell have seriously affected Guyana's water supply, officials of the country's water authority have reported.

They said that some customers have been unable to obtain piped water for long periods daily because the electricity supply cuts left a Georgetown pumping station without a source of power and also because dry weather had lowered water levels.

The water level in the Demerara conservancy was said to be very low.

Due to the run-down state of the country's power-generating equipment and government's efforts to systematically cut fuel consumption, a rotating schedule of load-cutting has been in effect across the country for more than a year.

It said this was because the vessel bringing it supplies had been diverted to St. Kitts-Nevis and Tortola in the British Virgin Islands. The vessel is due here today.

The power cuts have dealt a blow to production levels in the South American Republic. At least one company — a state-run ham and bacon producer — said it had had to temporarily close down operations.

Electricity rates here recently went up by 13 per cent, a move against which trade union leaders demonstrated.

In the past week Guyana was plagued by periods of daily load-shedding of up to 18 hours in some areas. At the same time, the state-owned Guyana Electricity Corporation (GEC) reported that its fuel supply were "exceptionally low."

CSO: 3298/287

TUC ORGANIZES MARCH PROTESTING ELECTRICITY RATE HIKE

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 18 Dec 82 p 3

[Text]

GEORGETOWN, Guyana, Friday, (CANA) — Some 1 000 Guyanese workers heeded a call by the Trades Union Congress (TUC) here and marched through the streets of Georgetown Wednesday evening to protest a recent 13 per cent hike in electricity rates.

The workers carried slogans condemning the wage freeze imposed by the Forbes Burnham Government, the rising costs of living, the deteriorating social services, increasing cases of malnutrition and the banning of imports such as flour and basic consumer items.

The march culminated with a rally addressed by top TUC officials. The workers backed a resolution calling on the government to drop the new power rates which took effect from October.

"A generation has grown up since the TUC last demonstrated 18 years ago. We march to let workers know in public what has been going on in private," TUC general secretary Joseph Pollydore told the rally.

He charged that government had agreed since January this year to impose the rate increase, but had not

informed the labour movement of its intention until October.

Pollydore said the poor state of Guyana's electricity services, hit by frequent outages was the result of bad planning.

The TUC official said the government had on several occasions called for dialogue with the labour movement, but had ended up against the interest of Guyanese workers.

He mentioned the promise made by government that the imposition of a minimum wage of \$14 would have stalled the retrenchment of workers, 6 000 of whom in the public service were sent home this year.

The TUC official said the labour movement was at a new beginning in terms of demonstrating for workers' rights.

TUC's first vice-president George Danies told the crowd that the TUC had received a cable from the Oilfields Workers Trade Union (OWTU) in Trinidad and Tobago congratulating it on its decision to march.

"We have to learn the difference between support for a political party and support for our bread and butter," he said.

CSO: 3298/287

POLITICS INJECTED INTO ROW OVER HOSPITAL DEATHS

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 21 Dec 82 p 3

[Text]

GEORGETOWN, Guyana, Monday (CANA) — Guyana's Minister of Health, Dr. Richard Van West Charles, has said that there is no conclusive scientific evidence as yet that the deaths of a number of prisoners and patients at the Georgetown Hospital this year had been due to malnutrition and beri beri disease.

He charged instead that there are doctors in a minority at the state-run Georgetown public hospital who were using patients' charts "to push a political issue" about malnutrition in Guyana.

Dr. Charles was answering journalists' questions yesterday about Press reports on the deaths during a local radio interview.

"I have no difficulty in accepting that there was beri beri, but you must not use nutrition as a political issue in dealing with people within the institution (the public hospital) or any institution whether you are opposed to the government or not," he said.

He added that medical superintendent Dr. Enid Denbow was doing analysis of the reported cases.

Hospital sources have reported over 60 cases admitted in the last four months suffering from incapacity in the lower limbs diagnosed as beri beri disease, caused by vitamin B deficiency.

The minister said, however, that he had looked at a chart of one patient admitted with the

weakness in the legs but that without any dietary history a doctor had diagnosed "weakness secondary to malnutrition."

He added that beri beri could also be caused by excessive alcoholic consumption and that two patients who died with the symptoms came from the interior mining district of Kurupung—"an area where people drink a lot of liquor."

Dr. Charles commented on reports that 11 inmates of the Georgetown prison have died this year with symptoms of beri beri, and on the United Children's Fund (UNICEF) survey data that Guyana has the highest infant mortality rate in the English-speaking Caribbean.

Minister Charles said that at least one of the deaths among prisoners was being investigated as due to medical negligence, not malnutrition, and that the problem of high infant mortality is partly due to mothers' failure to make use of pre-natal and post-natal medical services available to them.

"All this (concern) about beri beri came out of the wheat flour issue," he said. "As a result of the lack of wheaten flour people feel B vitamins are scarce."

Guyana halted imports of wheat flour earlier this year due to a foreign exchange crisis but Dr. Charles stressed that the energy value of rice flour is no different from that of wheat flour.

"In fact, the protein in rice flour is of a higher quality

(than that of) wheat flour," Dr. Charles said.

Commenting on a reported serious shortage of drugs in the country, Minister Charles said that apart from a lack of supplies of gauze which led the ministry to fly in a shipment from the U.S. last week, "stocks of drugs are in pretty good condition at present."

He added that the reason that the Georgetown hospital decided recently to postpone all operations that are not urgent is due to the lack of anaesthetists at the hospital, but that some 28 doctors and other medical personnel now being trained at (UWI) the University of the West Indies, in Cuba and in the Soviet Union are expected to return home next year out of a total of more than 100 medical students abroad.

Dr. Charles also disclosed that under a programme funded by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) a number of rural hospitals in Guyana's three counties have been built and should be fully stocked with equipment by February next year.

"In the short and long term Guyana's health services are in good condition," he added.

He also said that salary increases are being considered for nurses in state-run institutions and that their meal allowances have been increased from \$80 to \$100 a month, with retroactive effect from June 1981.

Minister Charles also disclosed that the government analyst's report on the mysterious deaths of 15 inmates of the country's Fort Canje Mental Hospital last August had been forwarded to the country's crime chief Cecil Roberts and that "within a short while inquests will be held."

EDITORIAL DISCUSSES 1982-83 SUPPLEMENTARY SPENDING BILL

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 2 Dec 82 p 8

[Editorial]

[Text] The House of Representatives last Thursday approved the Government's proposal for an additional expenditure of \$147 million presented in the first Supplementary Estimates for the 1982-83 fiscal year.

The additional expenditures pushes the Government's projected outlay for the current fiscal year to just over J\$2.9 billion, with the recurrent expenditure accounting for \$1,906 million, representing an increase of \$10 million on the initial Budget. The capital Budget accounts for the substantial share (\$137 million) of the additional expenditure, thus increasing the projected capital outlay for the year to \$1,013 million, or about 15.8 percent above the vote approved last April.

According to the Prime Minister, Mr. Seaga, the allocation of \$147 million, comprising the Supplementary Estimates, was no indication of a burgeoning Budget as some Ministers have been effecting reductions in spending. In other words, the Budget was on target, notwithstanding, it seems, the fact that the Government has had to find an amount of \$36.2 million to help finance the purchase of the Esso Oil Refinery, and another \$20 million for equity participation in six companies, including the recently acquired Montego Freeport.

While there appears to be buoyancy in the revenue collections with tax revenue yielding an increase of \$109.9 million, the fact is that there have been declines in certain sources of revenue. The expenditure Budget must certainly be affected by the contraction in the bauxite and alumina industry. In fact, the rise of 40 percent in the projected resource gap to \$40 million, from the initial \$28.6 million, is traceable, in part, to a slower revenue inflow from bauxite, in addition to decreases from consumption duties and certain other taxes.

Jamaica will continue to feel the effects of the recession in the international economy. This will undoubtedly increase the pressure on the Budget in a situation of contracting revenue. The Government cannot over-extend itself as this would inevitably lead to a worsening of the resource gap, and ultimately a return to an unhealthy deficit situation in the current account. It is a very difficult situation, demanding astute fiscal management. Yet it is difficult to see how Government could avert continuing lay-offs in key industries.

SHEARER MEETS WITH FOREIGN DELEGATES TO LOS CONFERENCE

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 10 Dec 82 p 11

[Text]

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Rt. Hon. Hugh Shearer, continuing his round of meetings with delegations attending the Law of the Sea signing session in Montego Bay, met Thursday with the Prime Minister of the Netherlands Antilles, the Honourable Don Martina.

After discussions about the Convention and the Caribbean, Mr. Martina presented Mr. Shearer with a set of silver commemorative coins.

The Jamaican Deputy Prime Minister met also with the Permanent Representative of Chad to the United Nations, H.E. Ramadane Barma, who briefed Mr. Shearer on the political situation in his country. Mr. Shearer expressed the Jamaican Government's hope for a speedy settlement of the conflict in Chad, so that the people could live and work in peace, a news release from the Ministry

of Foreign Affairs said.

On Wednesday, Mr. Shearer received H. E. Han Xu, Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs from China, who outlined the principles of his country's foreign policies and briefed Mr. Shearer on China-USSR relations. They also discussed issues in the Non-Aligned Movement and promised to stay in touch on these matters.

The Deputy Prime Minister met later with the Nigerian Attorney-General and Minister of Justice, Chief Richard Akinjide.

They discussed bilateral relations following Mr. Shearer's visit to Nigeria earlier this year. A Jamaican team is to visit that country in the near future.

Mr. Shearer spent part of yesterday working on the statement he will make at the closing session of the Conference this afternoon, following the signing of the Convention.

\$90 MILLION EXPANSION PROGRAM OUTLINED FOR CEMENT FIRM

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 11 Dec 82 pp 1, 12

[Text]

"Major expansion of the Caribbean Cement Company Limited to allow for an increase in the company's cement production capacity to 400,000 tons at a cost of U.S.\$90 million of which the Inter-American Bank is lending the company 64 per cent repayable over a 15-year period was announced on Thursday night by the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the company, Mr. Paul Matalon.

The company starts its expansion and coal-conversion project, which is estimated to last 43 months, in January. It is planned that the first stage of the expansion programme will see the rebuilding of the four silos which were demolished in 1975, plus the construction of an additional four silos which will provide storage of approximately 26,000 tons of cement.

Apart from the expansion programme, the Caribbean Cement Company Limited is projecting for 1983 a cement production of 366,500 tons, or approximately 50 per cent more than 1982 production. The company also plans to maintain for the greater part of the year a cement stockpile of 10,000 tons.

In addition, the company plans to have a "new clinker stockpile" which at the minimum would be 8,000 tons clinker and at year-end would be some 35,000 tons of clinker.

As far as sales are concerned, the company plans to sell a minimum of 365,000 tons of locally-produced cement and 20,000 tons of imported cement, the arrival of which will be in January or February next year.

DISCLOSURE OF THE company's plans was made by Mr. Matalon at the company's annual long-service awards presentation held at the Jamaica Pegasus Hotel, New Kingston.

Mr. Matalon said: "These output and sales figures take into account substantial planned maintenance times on the No. 3 kiln and the No. 1 kiln, as well as a major repair job to the No. 2 raw mill shell. Additionally, work will be done to put the shale and limestone Hammer mills in as perfect condition as possible in the early part of the year".

Stating that 1982 was a year of progress, Mr. Matalon said that the company started 1982 with only

one kiln in operation. On April 14, the No. 2 kiln was restarted after being out of service from June 11, 1981. The restoration of the second kiln had significantly improved the company's performance for 1982.

During 1982, he said, a number of important jobs were completed. The No. 3 packer system was made operational. Some four cement silos were rehabilitated thus improving the flow of cement to the packing plant. There had been improvement in the withdrawal system from the raw material silos. The effect being to reduce the water content in the slurry, resulting in operational advantage as well as financial benefits.

"The rehabilitation of the power-station engines is another area of progress. One engine was totally rebuilt after having been out of operation for several years. Three other engines have been completely overhauled. The reliability of the power station has accordingly been substantially enhanced.

"Work is currently proceeding on the No. 3 raw mill, and is expected to be completed by next week," he said.

Mr. Matalon said that the results of the various improvements in the mechanical state of the plant were reflected in the increase in production levels for 1982. He said that for the period January to November 1982, clinker production was 201,042 tons compared with 142,133 tons for the same period in 1981. Cement production had also increased to 217,847 tons in 1982 compared with 147,063 in 1981.

IT HAD BEEN BUDGETED, he said, that the cement company would produce and sell 257,000 tons of cement in 1982, but the estimated production for 1982 is 240,000 tons or 48 per cent more than 1981.

"The shortfall of 7 per cent when compared to budget has more than been made up with imports of 31,000 tons of cement; 12,000 tons in February-March and 19,000 tons in the period August - November 1982," he said.

"The total deliveries of cement for 1982 are estimated at 264,000 tons. This is 63 per cent more than 1981 deliveries of 161,835 tons and 71 per cent more than 1980 deliveries of 149,133 tons.

"It had been planned to import a further 20,000 tons for delivery in November and December but this has been deferred until January and February of 1983."

Turning to important projects that are to be completed by the end of the year, Mr. Matalon said

that one major project is the rehabilitation of the No. 1 kiln. This, he added, is substantially completed. The light-up of this kiln is planned for two weeks' time.

"The light-up hinges on another major job, the repair of the No. 3 Raw Mill which is expected to be completed by December 19. Work on a new sea-water pipeline will also be completed shortly to facilitate the light-up of the kiln."

MR. MATALON SAID that the company will be starting in 1983 its expansion and coal-conversion project which will increase the company's production capacity by 400,000 tons. The project is estimated to cost the equivalent of U.S.\$90 million of which the Inter-American Bank is lending the company 64 per cent repayable over a 15-year period.

The necessary planning and engineering work will take place for the most part of 1983. By the middle of 1986, the company will have installed the Allis Chalmers kiln system purchased in 1975.

"Within a few days we will be signing a contract with Onoda Engineering and Consulting Limited of Tokyo, Japan. They have been appointed consulting engineers for the company's expansion coal conversion project.

"It is planned that the first stages of the expansion project will see the rebuilding of the four silos which were demolished in 1975, plus an additional four silos which will provide storage of approximately 26,000 tons of cement. Also to be implemented early is the conversion of the kiln fuel system from oil to coal firing for both existing and expanded facilities."

The third element of the expansion project which will commence in 1983 is the installation of 3 Mirreco power generators. These generators will burn bunker 'C' oil. The three largest units of existing diesel-power plant will also be converted to burn bunker 'C' oil. It is anticipated that by early 1985 the existing kilns will have been converted from oil to coal.

Turning to delivery of cement, Mr. Matalon said the situation had improved, adding that under the new delivery system which had been implemented, brokers can secure delivery of 1,000 bags of cement per week and contractors 750 bags per week.

"In 1983 we plan to improve this, at a date to be announced brokers will be able to collect 1,500 bags weekly and contractors 1,000 bags," he said.

TRANSPORT MINISTER PROMISES LIMIT ON AUTO IMPORTS

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER In English 13 Dec 82 p 2

[Text]

Government is not going to allow massive importation of motor vehicles into the island, Transport Minister Pearmel Charles said on Thursday, December 9, as he spoke of the huge build-up of traffic on the streets and the increased consumption of fuel.

Noting that fuel consumption had increased some 35%, Mr. Charles said the "detractors" who were angry at not getting duty-free vehicles into the island should understand that the government would not be able to find foreign exchange to buy gas, tyres and spare parts to maintain such vehicles.

Mr. Charles was speaking at an "Open House" at Bandag Retreading, Mollynes Road, after he was taken on a tour of the factory and shown the process of retreading.

He said that at present the traffic lines were very long and if allowed to

continue very soon no one could move. Unless there were new roads there would be a permanent block of cars, trucks and buses from Constant Spring to Parade.

The Minister congratulated the company, operated by the Neal and Massey Group, for providing 34 "young and dynamic Jamaicans" with professional training, adding that he wished more countries with technology would also train Jamaicans.

While praising the introduction of new technology, the Minister noted that this would perpetuate the unemployment pattern and therefore burden social security and government assistance.

Turning to the question of electricity, the Minister said the problems were not over. He said that three months ago the demand was 209 megawatts and on Wednesday night

240 megawatts were used and this was the most the present machinery could produce. He said that in the next two weeks one of the biggest plants would be put into operations.

Mr. Hugh Gray, managing director of Neal & Massey (Jamaica) Limited, announced that an expansion programme of \$200,000 would be completed in 1983 to allow services such as vulcanizing tyres for heavy duty and off-the-road vehicles used in the construction and mining industries.

Greetings from Bandag's headquarters in Iowa, United States, were brought by Mr. Ingo Augustins, Vice president of International Sales. Bandag's Divisional Manager, Mr. Ashmeade Radway, explained that the first "Open Day" was to acquaint customers and potential customers with the retreading processes and services.

TWO CONTRACTS SIGNED WITH ITALIAN FIRM IN HOUSING SECTOR

Kingston THE SUNDAY GLEANER in English 12 Dec 82 p 1

[Text] Two contracts totalling approximately \$9.5 million were signed at the Ministry of Construction on Friday for the setting up of three pre-fabrication plants to produce reinforced concrete elements for the construction of houses and for the establishment of a woodwork plant to produce roof trusses, doors and door frames for the housing units.

Minister of Construction, the Hon. Bruce Golding, signed on behalf of the Government of Jamaica and two representatives of the Italian firm, Giza S.P.A., Dr. Vittorio Turini and Mr. Claudio Opl, signed on behalf of their company.

Under the agreement, Giza S.P.A. will establish three pre-fabrication plants to produce reinforced concrete elements for the construction of houses. The total value of that contract is some \$7.8-million.

A second contract was signed by the Minister and Mr. Giovannia Gangone, representing SCM Engineering S.P.A., of Italy as well, for the establishment of a woodwork plant to produce roof trusses, doors and doors frames for the housing units produced by the pre-fabrication plants. The total value of this contract is some \$1.6-million.

The three pre-fabrication plants will be located at Twickenham Park, May Pen and Savanna-la-mar. They will each be capable of producing 2,000 houses a year working one 8-hour shift a day for five days a week, giving them an overall capacity of 6,000 houses per a year on a single shift basis, with the capability of more than doubling that capacity as may be required.

The woodwork plant which will be built in Twickenham Park will be capable of producing wooden elements including trusses, doors and door frames for all 6,000 houses a year.

The terms of the contract include provisions for the training of Jamaican technicians to operate and maintain the plants. Some of this training will take place at the plants under the direction of Italian personnel. In addition, six Jamaican technicians will be sent to Italy in 1983 to undergo specialized training in similar plants operated by Giza in order to equip them to assume senior positions in the local plants.

Each pre-fabrication plant is expected to provide employment for about 80 people. The woodwork plant will provide permanent employment for about 35 people in addition to training three batches of 40 people a year.

GUN COURT AMENDMENTS EXPLAINED, GAIN APPROVAL OF HOUSE

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 15 Dec 82 pp 1, 17

[Excerpts]

INTERIM AMENDMENTS to the Gun Court Act in order to introduce a greater degree of flexibility in two important areas were approved in the House of Representatives yesterday afternoon against the background of a walk-out by the five members of the Opposition who were present.

Twenty Government members who were present in the chamber voted unanimously in support of the amendments after the Minister of National Security and Justice, the Hon. Winston Spaulding, piloted the Bill entitled "An Act to Amend the Gun Court Act". Other Government members contributing to the debate were the Minister of Education, the Hon. Dr. Mavis Gilmour; the Minister of Public Utilities and Transport, the Hon. Parnell Charles; and a back-bencher, Mr. Everard Warmington.

The walk-out by the Opposition members was over a ruling of the Speaker, the Hon. Talbert Forrest.

The principal amendments which that Act would make to the existing Act were as follows:

- The mandatory sentence of life imprisonment will be abolished and the question of sentencing will be left to the discretion of the Court, subject to a maximum penalty of life imprisonment with hard labour.

- Persons under 14 years of age will be removed altogether from the ambit of the jurisdiction of the Gun Court. Provisions similar to those in the Juveniles Act will be made applicable to young persons; that is, persons of 14 years or over but under 17 years of age, who are convicted and sentenced to life imprisonment under the Gun Court Act.

- Jurisdiction will be conferred on the Resident Magistrate's Division of

the Gun Court to grant bail, fix trial dates and determine matters ancillary to trial in any division of the Gun Court at all stages. Certain of the cases now required by the Gun Court Act to be transferred to the Gun Court for trial will be triable by the Resident Magistrate also.

"These are offences which the Resident Magistrate would, but for the Gun Court Act, have had jurisdiction to try," the Minister said.

The Amendments also give the Resident Magistrate the discretion to decide whether to exercise jurisdiction in such cases or to commit the person charged to the Gun Court.

MR. SPAULDING said: "A Resident Magistrate in any parish other than Kingston, St. Andrew or St. Catherine, will be empowered to (a) commit, without holding a preliminary examination, a person charged with a fire-arm of-

fence which is not a capital offence, for trial during the next ensuing sitting of the Circuit Court for that parish before the circuit Court Judge sitting as the High Court Division of the Gun Court, and (b) to hold a preliminary examination where the person is charged with a capital offence and to commit that person to the Circuit Court Division of the Gun Court constituted by a judge of the next ensuing Circuit Court for the parish, sitting with a jury for that purpose.

The Minister said also that mechanisms will be put in place to deal with the review of some 1,500 persons convicted under the Act without judicial discretion. He said further that a Committee will be established to examine further medium and long-term proposals to see what can be done in this ongoing of reform.

"We are not locked into any fixed position," the Minister said, adding that the Gun Court Act was "wrong, disgraceful, a blot on the country's jurisprudence, and a blot on the country's judicial history".

"If it can be made out for the ultimate repeal of the Act we will be open-minded," the Minister said.

"This set of amendments which is the important beginning of the process of review and reform of this much-debated Act is again the visible and tangible honouring of a pledge by this Government when in opposition, concerning an important area of human rights and justice."

BRIEFS

IICA OFFICE PLANS--KINGSTON, Mon., (Cana)--THE Inter-American Institute for Agricultural Cooperation (IICA), a hemispheric aid agency, is to establish its Caribbean headquarters in Jamaica, according to a Government statement here. Jamaica Information Service (JIS) said Dr. Francisco Morillo, Director General of ILCA, agricultural arm of the Organisation of American States (OAS), was due here tomorrow for a four-day visit. Plans for the new IICA office and co-operation between the institute and Jamaica will be the main talking points when Dr. Morillo meets Government officials here. Dr. Morillo is coming at the invitation of Jamaica's Agriculture Minister, and will look at some of the projects his organisation has been supporting here, including rice cultivation, as well as cassava and peanut projects in the south of the country. IICA, which is based in Costa Rica, already has a local office here and one in Barbados. [Text] [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 30 Nov 82 p 5]

PORT WORKERS' SALARIES--Differences in pay increases between hourly-paid workers and their supervisors at Port Bustamante which led to strike action by the hourly-paid workers last month were settled yesterday when a "supplementary agreement" to the "formal agreement" was reached between the Shipping Association of Jamaica and the trade unions representing the portworkers. Negotiation of the "supplementary agreement" followed industrial action by the workers which involved a withdrawal of labour on the port from October 20 to November 1. Work was resumed when the Industrial Disputes Tribunal issued an order for full resumption after an emergency meeting. A joint statement from the SAJ and port unions said the terms of the supplementary agreement, which is designed to ensure "industrial peace" at the port provides for a \$8.68 weekly increase to be paid to the hourly-paid workers as from November 22, in addition to the \$56 weekly earlier agreed on, which is to be paid out not later than December 15. All parties have agreed to use their "best offices" to maintain industrial peace by preventing strikes and lockouts and to ensure full normality at the port. Other clauses in the "supplementary agreement" guarantee a year-end bonus of 6-1/2 per cent of actual straight-timesshift actually worked from November 1, 1981 to October 31, 1982; and require a job evaluation exercise to be undertaken jointly and completed before October 31, 1983, to be a reference point for rate adjustment. It was also agreed that all future collective labour agreements on the port involving the unions who are parties to the agreement, be negotiated under the auspices of the Joint Industrial Council for the shipping industry. [Text] [Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 20 Nov 82 p 1]

FARM EXPORT COMPANY--ELEVEN OF THE JAMAICA'S LEADING DISTRIBUTORS HAVE FORMED A NEW COMPANY - United Produce Traders Ltd. to purchase and export locally grown farm produce. This company has been formed in response to Prime Minister Edward Seaga's recent call for the distributors to become involved in the collection and export of the farmers' produce and so increase the available market opportunities. The eleven share holders in the new company are: Grace Kennedy & Company Ltd., T. Geddes Grant Ltd., Lascelles DeMercado & Company Ltd., Musson Jamaica Ltd., Desnoes & Geddes Ltd., Facey Commodity Company Ltd., Neal & Massey Jamaica Ltd., Hand Arnold Jamaica Ltd., Jamaica Banana Producers Association Ltd., West Indies Synthetics Ltd. and J. H. G. Mapp (Succs) Ltd. [Excerpt] [Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 4 Dec 82 p 8]

CARGO SERVICE REPRIEVE--SEALAND WILL NOT WITHDRAW its relay cargo service from Jamaica after all. This was announced yesterday by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Rt. Hon. Hugh Shearer, who conducted the successful negotiations with representatives of Sealand Service Inc., leading to a decision by the company to continue using the Kingston Transshipment Port. Sealand has threatened to withdraw its relay cargo from Kingston because of unstable labour conditions in the port. Mr. Shearer opened negotiations with the company late last month and these were taken to a successful conclusion by the Chairman of the Port Authority, Mr. Noel Hylton. As a result, Sealand will resume its relay cargo service here next week, starting with the arrival of one of its vessels on Wednesday. [Excerpt] [Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 4 Dec 82 p 1]

ROK ASSISTANCE--Twenty Pony sedan cars were presented to the Government of Jamaica on Friday morning as a gift from the Republic of Korea. Making the presentation at Jamaica House was Korean Ambassador, Dr. Sang-Jin Choi, with Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. Edward Seaga, receiving the gifts. The cars are part of an ongoing economic assistance programme by Korea to Jamaica, which began in 1975. Dr. Choi cited donations of 40 power tillers to Jamaica for use in agriculture, five pick-up trucks, U.S. \$10,000 to help the recovery programme after the devastation of Hurricane Allen, and six family wagon-type jeeps last year, as part of the ongoing economic assistance programme. In addition, the Government of Korea had sponsored two Jamaican trainees each year in areas of coastal fishing, agricultural and other social programmes. Prime Minister Seaga, in thanking the Government of Korea, said that discussions were now in progress to arrange a barter agreement between the two countries involving bauxite. He said that the talks were in the initial stage and prices were now being negotiated. Present at the handing over ceremony was Mr. Jo Young Choi, First Secretary of the Korean Embassy. [Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 13 Dec 82 p 1]

PORT ACTIVITY--A REDUCTION IN both domestic and transshipment cargo moving through Port Bustamante during the first nine months of the year was reported on Friday by the former chairman of the Shipping Association of Jamaica (SAJ), Mr. Reggie Smith. In his report to the annual general meeting of the SAJ at its headquarters King Street, Kingston, Mr. Smith said that the situation had been further aggravated by the industrial relations problems on the port. He said that the foreign exchange problems, coupled with problems of import licences, had resulted in a reduction of 8.5% in domestic cargo passing

through the public wharves, or about 549,000 tons between January and September this year, compared with 600,000 tons for the same period in 1981. However, based on the latest reports, a growth of 2% in the amount of cargo handled on the port was projected by the end of the year. Mr. Smith said that transshipment cargo during the same period also reflected a downturn of approximately 20%. [Excerpt] [Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 13 Dec 82 pp 1, 13]

KINGSTON ROAD WORK--WORK ON A \$70-million road improvement programme in Kingston is to begin in mid-1983, the Minister of Local Government, Hon. Alva Ross, announced yesterday. Under the programme, which is being financed by the World Bank, roads will be widened, re-surfaced, by-passes and roundabouts put in, and a "proper traffic light system" installed. [Excerpt] [Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 15 Dec 82 pp 1, 17]

RISE IN PRICE OF SUGAR--KINGSTON, Jamaica, Saturday, (CANA)--Jamaican consumers are paying 17 cents more for all grades of sugar and they face the immediate prospects of an increase in the cost of condensed milk from which the government has removed its sugar subsidy. The hike in sugar prices was likely to push up the costs of a wide range of other products, consumer groups here said. The new round of sugar price increases, announced on Wednesday by Agriculture Minister Percival Broderick, will move the cost of brown sugar from 55 to 72 cents a pound, refined sugar from \$1.15 to \$1.32 dollars a pound, and "Golden Crystals" from two to \$2.17 for the two-pound packages. Dr. Broderick at the same time announced that the subsidy on sugar sold to Jamaica Milk Products, the local firm that produces sweetened condensed milk, has been removed. The higher sugar prices to consumers were estimated to earn \$87.7 million for the industry over the next three years, while the removal of the subsidy on condensed milk should bring in \$62 million over the same period, the Agriculture minister told a meeting of the All-Island Cane Farmers Association. [Bridgetown SUNDAY ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 19 Dec 82 p 3]

UNION LEADER'S PROPOSALS--University and Allied Workers Union (UAWU) president, Dr. Trevor Munroe, has urged the subcommittee reviewing the labour laws to make urgent changes in the law to give workers longer notice and better redundancy payments in view of the number of lay-offs and redundancies taking place. Dr. Munroe who appeared before the sub-committee on December 1, cited industrial relations laws in the United Kingdom as examples of the changes his union is recommending to the existing laws. Dr. Munroe also urged an immediate amendment to the Income Tax Act and the relevant regulations to stop the practice whereby the total amount of income tax is taken out at one time from back pay. He proposed a new system in which the income tax is deducted in instalments over a period of time equal to the number of months for which the back pay has been accumulated. The sub-committee which heard Dr. Munroe's submissions comprised Mr. Anthony Irons, Director of Industrial Relations at the Ministry of labour and Mr. Robert Baugh, attorney-at-law.

CSO: 3298/288

GONZALEZ CASANOVA VIEWS ECONOMIC, POLITICAL LANDSCAPE

Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 19, 20, 21, 22 Dec 82

[Pablo Gonzalez Casanova Commentary: "Where Is Mexico Going?"; passages enclosed in slantlines printed in italics]

[19 Dec 82 pp 1, 4]

[Text] We are beginning a new stage in the development of capitalism in Mexico within the context of an international crisis that, according to the best predictions, will get worse. That new stage opens with the nationalization of the banks, a historic act that profoundly affected some of the structures of the country in such a way to make it doubly difficult to know where we are headed. On one hand, the scope, depth and outcome of the international crisis are not known. On the other hand, we are inaugurating a monetarist policy with nationalized banks but we have little precedent concerning its real effect on the economy.

In the prenuclear period, crises generally resulted in world wars. That outcome cannot be discarded today. The wisest statesmen view it as a possibility which would imply the destruction of the world. However, if we discard that possibility and if the forces opposed to that type of war manage to prevail, the future is still uncertain as to the development of reforms and revolutions, the triumph of very repressive regimes in industrialized countries and an increase in wars against the peoples of the Third World or among them.

It is not easy to carry out a policy of reforms or of widespread repression in Europe or the United States today. Nor is it easy to have a revolution in those countries or in other more or less industrialized countries of the Third World. Conquests are also difficult. The difficulties are structural. They loom larger for reforms or repression in Europe or the United States and relatively smaller for revolutionary movements and military interventions in the countries of the Third World. They are suffering from a general crisis which is advantageous for revolutionary movements.

In any case, the present balance of power is going to change, not only in the Third World but in the First and Second World. Although it might continue changing more in the countries on the periphery of capitalism, major changes in the capitalist powers and in the socialist bloc itself can also be expected. Meanwhile, Mexico will be in the U.S. attack or "national security"

zone. The policy of the Reagan administration and the forces it represents is to do everything possible to change the balance of power in their favor. They have two objectives: one, that the Mexican foreign policy does not continue to change the balance of power unfavorably for the United States--like Central America and the Caribbean; and, second, that the Mexican domestic policy does not continue presenting nationalist and social democrat obstacles, as it has until now, which hinder increased rates of profit for the multinationals and the models they use for greater concentration of capital.

The U.S. Government and its representatives cannot find another way to govern in the present situation other than the application of a so-called neoconservative philosophy. Concretely, it seeks to insure the expanded reproduction of large U.S. capital and not only in the markets and production that national and multinational monopolies and oligopolies control and are determined to control. In the many measures--political, military, cultural and economic--that the present U.S. administration applies with greater consistency than the previous government, the need to protect and expand the rate of profits and the necessary concentration of property and power through production and markets of the monopolies is not the sole objective but is the most significant and important in order to understand its economic, military and ideological policy and the pressure for the balance of power to change in Mexico.

Nationalization of the banks was not an act dictated by the president's whims as is fashionable to say. Nor was it an act decided on by a personal, almost heroic desire as some of those who criticize him today seemed to indicate in their praise. Nationalization of the banks obeyed that dialectic of coalition and class that characterizes the Mexican state which rose from the revolution, a very complex and inexplicable dialectic when analyzed only as coalition or class. President Lopez-Portillo had the ability to understand that the country would again become ungovernable if he did not nationalize the banks. He made the decision to use a constitution that authorized him to do it, the real national Constitution. The constitutional nature of the act is undeniable. Formally, he not only had power that was difficult to refute but it was all consolidated by the constitutional amendment that the president carried out in the last 3 months of his government with the support of the national and state legislatures and without any objection from the judicial branch but with some endorsement. That occurred from the formal point of view. From the point of view of the real power structure, the nationalization not only received the enthusiastic support of the PRI [Institutional Revolutionary Party] and the Labor Congress but the army itself. There was not even the slightest disagreement among its top ranks. The nationalization unified even the leftist parties around the government. They supported it with reservations. For a time it even seemed as if the class struggle had been eliminated from Mexico (and the world).

In reality, the president not only interpreted the Constitution and the balance of power of the state and the opposition well but the current international balance of power. The expropriated bankers merely had the weak support of PAN [National Action Party] and were even repudiated by their European and U.S. colleagues. The latter's support of the Mexican Government's measure was not only expressed in their major newspapers like the FINANCIAL TIMES but in

the surprisingly conciliatory and understanding policy of one of the most conservative administrations ever in the United States.

With all the controversies in which the Lopez-Portillo government has been involved, the administrative reform that ended the superpower of the secretary of finance, the political reform that legitimized the communists and other leftist forces for electoral and parliamentary contests and that legitimized the government itself, making Mexico one of the few nations where there is no terrorism or guerrillas, and, finally, the nationalization of the banks that gave enormous weight to public ownership of the means of production and their possible use for a much more advanced, democratic and popular national and social policy within capitalism were measures that, through the executive branch, expressed the power of the social democrat, national and popular forces participating in the government coalition. All this occurred within a social system where, along with financial capital and the multinationals, a public and private, negotiating and dealing bourgeoisie dominates. It not only knows the /necessary/ rules to manage an ungovernable country without certain /popular and national/ compromises but the rules of a frequently primitive--in the economic meaning of the term--policy of accumulation. This policy would be savage politically and corrupt in the moral, economic and political sense. Only for a moment and only to the most naive, nationalization looked like a government act outside the class struggle.

The left which does not analyze coalition or class did not understand anything about what occurred. If the state is an instrument of large capital--and especially financial capital--why did that instrument expropriate financial capital? If it is a government by simple alliance of peasants, workers and the popular sectors, why did it take a measure against financial capital that is praised and supported not only by those sectors but by international financial capital? We will limit ourselves to this second question so as not to go into the history of the coalition that forged the state and suffered from the events and controversies caused by its own structures and those of the development of monopolistic capital. It is necessary to look at the strange agreement about an act like the nationalization of the banks which was supported by the popular, working and leftist forces and also by international financial capital. The strange agreement was not total. The popular and leftist forces enthusiastically supported the nationalization. When they presented their reservations, these were very different and even opposed to those of large capital. The financial circles and the government people who dominate the IMF seemed to accept the nationalization as the lesser evil. They seemed to think that it was not advisable for Mexico to go bankrupt and it was not possible at that time to destabilize the country. Their acceptance of the consummated act was based on the present and the future. They did not want the bankruptcy of Mexico which the bankruptcy of its banks could provoke. They could not attempt the destabilization of a country that presented a great government-people front. Even if they could destabilize it, it would lead to the crisis that they did not want. Very cold-bloodedly, the multinationals thought about /the crisis that they did want/ and how to handle this crisis with the best procedures and methods under the concrete conditions of Mexico. They might be able to change those conditions to benefit them and make the crisis and the overcoming of that crisis benefit them.

[20 Dec 82 p 6]

[Text] The "letter of intention" with the IMF and President De la Madrid's inaugural speech seemed to confirm that the class struggle had disappeared in Mexico and the world or that the outgoing and incoming Mexican Government had taken the best positions possible in this struggle as representatives of the people in general and of a policy of the people. The contradiction between the letter and the speech on one side and the economic-banking cabinet on the other seemed obvious and became even more obvious with the measures taken in December.

If we leave criticism of past presidents to historians and we attempt a serious critical analysis of President De la Madrid's policy--and of this month of December that is ending--we can explore certain phenomena. They are much more important and significant than any past event not because of the dangers they imply as to errors that we could eventually commit but because of the dangers of an uncontrollable class struggle for national power. Few months in the history of Mexico have seen a greater accumulation of agreements, decrees and bills issued by a chief of state than this December under President De la Madrid. Their concrete meaning and their real limitations are not easy to decipher. Even the most experienced observers are confused. In order to find that meaning and see not only the good parts but the certain and uncertain dangers of some of them, we think it best to formulate three types of hypotheses to try to explore their consequences: a monetarist, formalist and moralist. Those three hypotheses seem to have some coherence in the present and probable development of the struggles of society and the state, the state coalition and classes. They can help us view their implications at the international level.

It is obvious that--letter of intention notwithstanding--many of the measures taken correspond to a monetarist policy. Based on this hypothesis, the increase in gasoline and other products followed by a new currency devaluation would be followed next year by a policy of wage ceilings. With the restrictions on the budget for expenditures and investments, this will not only generate less revenue in goods and services for the working people, lower and middle classes, but greater unemployment. This last will also be increased in the private sector due to the withdrawal of the protection and subsidy systems (in the name of efficiency) from medium and small businesses which certainly generate much employment. Many of the leaders of the economy and national banking have placed an almost Chilean (official Chile) faith in the ideas of one of the most mediocre men in the history of economic philosophy--Mr Friedman. They discard any criticism of their faith in him and other monetarists with intellectual and political arrogance. More than permitting us to judge them for a bad plan and a bad economic policy, they force others to think about what that policy really includes and what has made it deserve the great praise of the /mass media/ and the sophisticated circles of neoconservative academia. The monetarist theses are unsustainable and, in the short and long run, produce effects so contrary to those assumed that one can ask what effects are produced that merit so much support. The great logic of monetarism concerns concentration of capital and increased rates of profit for large companies at the expense of medium and small enterprises, the

employees and workers, the peoples of the Third World and the "underprivileged" or overexploited peoples. Monetarism has different effects on highly industrialized countries and dependent ones. In the former, it not only causes concentration of capital and increased rates of profit for the large enterprises but leads to reform and technological production. In the latter, it achieves more or less the same effects but mainly benefits the foreign capital of the large powers and their enterprises that export technology.

With nationalized banks and the monetarist policy, the monopolistic multinational capital and the group of bankers who dominate the IMF can be the main beneficiaries, once local financial capital is eliminated. That explains why they have patiently supported the nationalization in order to pressure with new inflationary, devaluing and efficiency policies for a free market (with admission to GATT) and wage ceilings. They have the support of a native bourgeoisie which is psychologically an accomplice. They also have the support of a fashionable technocracy that believes in "monetarism" and in the "realism" of the pressures of large capital and the United States as the /only/ policy and the /only/ reality. It is possible that outside of the "letter of intention"--which is abstract--concrete commitments as to prices and wages, social expenditures and investments and free trade in currency and merchandise have been acquired. It is possible that it was believed that these were the best measures and the best commitments. From all past experience, the effect that they can have is what has been indicated. There is no country that has proven that inflation improves with similar measures and that, after the /shock/, the economy starts up again. The only effect, based on /all/ past experience, is the greater concentration of capital--for the multinationals--increased rates of profit and the import of technologies which benefits them.

In addition to the political, private and diplomatic pressures that the IMF could exercise, there are also others known as "the war of the dollar." In economic science, this is part of what has been called the "economic war." It is well known that, at the beginning of December, a dollar in the United States could buy what 60 pesos could buy in Mexico. However, a dollar began to sell at 100, 130 and 150 pesos. Explaining this fact merely as a psychological phenomenon adheres to one of the most superficial variables. The other--the significant one--is that U.S. banks did not agree to support the real equivalency and let the fictitious one follow its course. The Mexican Government did not sign a monetary peace agreement with the U.S. Government. Instead of letting prices and services be expressed in monetary equivalencies, the United States encouraged a policy under which a dollar buys increasingly more goods and services in Mexico than in the United States. This benefits U.S. businessmen and consumers and bleeds Mexican producers and consumers through inflationary pressures. If the fiction continues, the United States some day would be able to buy all of Mexico with one single dollar. Without going that far, this fictitious economics is a plundering economics.

[21 Dec 82 p 5]

[Text] What is happening would seem to indicate that the crisis is going to worsen, not only economically but politically. The need to control that crisis is especially true for the conservative forces and the multinationals.

To control it, it is necessary to get rid of the last remnants of a strong state that was capable of nationalizing the banks and has social commitments. It is also necessary to reformulate the model of accumulation. Formalism can be used to achieve the first objective and moralism for the second.

One of the ideals of the liberal democratic philosophy in Mexico has been to make the planned democracy with balance of powers, effective federalism and municipal freedom a reality. Some measures of the present government would not seem to indicate that it wants to convert that ideal into reality. Concretely, what can happen? In an initiative to the legislatures, President De la Madrid simultaneously asked for a shorter length of time between elections and the transfer of power and asked that the judicial branch become more independent from the executive branch. When defending these proposals, it was recalled that no other country has such a long term for the transfer of power. The necessary sovereignty of the judicial branch has also been invoked. The reading of these two measures had two effects. To many, it sounded like a reproach of the previous regime. If there had not been so much time, it would not have been possible to amend the Constitution. If the judges had been more independent, they would perhaps have opposed the measure. To others, it sounded like a proposal that would make the change of power more functional and the independence of the judicial branch more in agreement with the spirit of democratic development.

Limiting ourselves to this last prospect, it would be necessary to study the advantages and disadvantages of changing the timetable (concerning an alleged "power vacuum," better control of the processes of destabilization, etc.) and the way to achieve greater autonomy of the judicial branch as related to increased popular and national control of justice, both phenomena seriously neglected.

The federalization or decentralization of national education is another measure that seems in agreement with the ideals of a classic democracy. It recognizes the autonomy and sovereignty of the states in the republic. The concrete significance of this federalization and the fact that it has begun precisely in education present another type of problem. As is well known in the world today, economic crises have become a political problem. Governments are made directly responsible for them. In order to lessen responsibility through decreased public expenditures, they decentralize and municipalize services. Thus they prepare themselves for worse crises but let others bear the blame. That could be one concrete result. Another would be increased resources for the oligarchical groups and the regional bosses. One more would be the disintegration of national education and its replacement by regional and local education. Yet another would be the elimination of the National Education Union as a national and state force, not because of its bad features but its good ones, not because of its authoritarian and official control but because of the pressures that the teachers exercise--as the largest intellectual bureaucracy in the country--to achieve their union interests as well as some general national interests. One more would be the loss of official hegemonic education which, combined with the separatist and integrationist tendencies in some northern oligarchies, might weaken education in the republic and weaken the power of the republic. It might, in fact, lead to important

ruptures--in the right--of the state-coalition. I am not saying that this is necessarily going to occur. I am saying that there is a high probability that it will occur. It is curious that in a technocratic age when "systems analysis" and the study of "complex organizations" reveal how the greatest efficiency is achieved through combined forms of centralization and decentralization, dependency and autonomy, administration by the small is being proposed as the model. What proposal has been made for greater democratization in the states and municipalities? That is the problem. The real solution to municipal freedom, to respect for the sovereignty of the states whose governments represent peoples and follow them and guide them, lies there. Formalism does not see those dangers, those problems or those solutions. It ignores all the historic and political experience in the name of an abstract legal and philosophical knowledge with very debatable technocratic solutions that do not focus on the democratic question and the power of the people. It denies the political question, not because it does not have a policy but because it is a policy that is not concerned heuristically in being one of the people and their organizations and because, as a technocracy, it apparently relegates these to the experts. They, in turn, view the forces of monopolistic capital as "real" and those of the politicians, called demagogues, who want to maintain or reform the social commitments of the state as annoying, deluded and fictitious. They also view those whom they accuse of being demagogues not because they do not succeed but because they stop trying and those whom they accuse of being antiquated politicians not because they are antiquated but because they want to maintain the old ties of the state-coalition in the same way.

[22 Dec 82 p 6]

[Text] Moralism is the reduction of social problems to an ethical problem, fulfillment of duty and the values of ideal conduct, independent from political considerations and considerations about the forms of accumulation and domination. The basic problem lies in the forms of domination and accumulation. In Mexico the power of the state coalition was structured by rural and urban groups, peasants, workers and bureaucrats. Through concession, negotiation and agreement, they created a set of structures in which the leaders fought for power, revenue and benefits with the support of hierarchically organized bases or masses. These masses were recognized and benefitted from their participation in the organization and their acceptance of a hierarchy to which they gave the right to take the majority but leave them something.

The original system of bands, groups and factions headed by leaders and bosses later was supplemented by a /de jure/ and /de facto/ institutional system that used mediation and intermediaries, friends and relationships, negotiators and conceders, to formalize an institutional system through law or custom. That system was tied to various forms of primitive accumulation of capital: either through concessions and subsidies to small and medium enterprises and the conversion of officials to businessmen and concessionaires or through concessions and subsidies of much larger scope to monopolistic capital and the multinationals.

As a system of domination and as a system of accumulation, it left an immense population of Mexicans known today as the "underprivileged" outside the

"benefits." It formed into organized peasant, worker and popular "sectors" with some of its members benefitting as surpluses increased and development occurred. The dominating classes and sectors felt that, due to political and social realism and in order to reproduce the system and impede destabilization, it was necessary to expand the groups benefitted. The fact that a similar system--authoritarian, protectionist and populist--gave way to corruption, even social corruption, is an irrefutable fact. The fact that that corruption partly benefitted the organized sectors, members of the state coalition, is another irrefutable fact. The fact that small and medium businessmen, traders and industrialists and, especially, multinational companies benefitted with subsidies and direct and indirect concessions is an equally verifiable fact but less obvious. In any case, corruption, domination and accumulation are phenomena that cannot be attacked individually. As has been said, the greatest corruption in Mexico is the 25 million underprivileged Mexicans.

Fortunately, there is a desire to attack and end corruption but, in order to do this, it is necessary to recognize that there are two types of policies against corruption. We could call one rightist; it wants to end social concessions and impose a "minimal state" without any social responsibility. We could call the other leftist; it seeks to increase social concessions and the institutional nature of those concessions and decrease those to enterprises, especially monopolies.

Up to now, the problem has been presented but the solution seriously smacks of moralism. The officials, beginning with those from the past government, have been put on the accused bench, at times with reason and at other times almost schizophrenically since they are the same ones who are in the new administration today. At the same time, bills have been proposed against "disloyalty in information" and against "moral harm" that, with the expedient of imposing natural respect for confidential and even secret information--characteristic of any state--can hinder currents of internal opinion characteristic of the state-coalition. Under the pretext of stopping the excesses of "the corrupted press," the sources of information can be closed up.

On the other hand, nothing has been done to promote critical internal dialogue in state institutions or to improve information and the systems of information in government organisms, much less to reduce the atmosphere of secrecy and confidentiality that reaches higher proportions in Mexico than in any other government of a more or less developed and democratic country. A new policy of information and public criticism has not been presented, just a new policy of information control.

The reduction of the wages and benefits of public officials can be added to the above facts. However, there is no new policy on wages and honoraria that /at the same time/ covers public administration, nationalized banking and private enterprise. Therefore, not only are the officials weakened socially, especially those tied to mass policy, but they are placed in a situation of inequality. The laws of the labor and service market will make the best ones seek private employment as the best way to obtain the privileges that public administration denies them.

Government taxes approved thus far continue to be very regressive. Although they are complemented by other taxes on personal income, their impact on the lower classes and the groups with fixed income will be hard to counterbalance and will require another policy of domination and accumulation.

In addition to the obvious tendency to take authority away from public officials, the guards for certain ranking officials have been eliminated without taking positive, consistent measures for reform, modernization and democratization of the police. With the increase in the insecurity of the state and society, there will be greater fear among officials and even more private police.

An attempt to summarize the December measures reveals the possibility that there will be serious confrontations within the state and between the state and the civilian society. Every part of society seems threatened by the different measures with the sole exception of Televisa and the multinationals. The government program and the measures known so far not only do not guarantee an improvement in the economic crisis but necessarily lead to its worsening and very probably to its complementation by a serious political crisis and a crisis in the power of the state. This will not increase the organization, participation and power of the popular, peasant and worker forces but weaken them and, with this, weaken the social commitments of the state and its nature as a coalition or alliance.

It could not be said that the entire scheme obeys a plan of monopolistic capital. What can be said is that the politicians who want to govern "realistically" seem to feel that the only thing that cannot be affected at all under this "realism" is monopolistic capital. With their measures, they are affecting practically /all/ the "sectors" from the PRI to public officials, small and medium enterprises, journalists and teachers, intermediaries and mediators, the working people and the underprivileged. This is done with a formal idea of democracy, efficiency, morality and economics. The concrete effects tend to unify two forces against them: the legitimate force of an impoverished people in crisis and the illegitimate force of immoral and inefficient officials, intermediaries and businessmen. If the latter have the ability to obtain support which includes legitimate popular discontent while the affected officials become weaker and more dissatisfied, absolute social disorder will occur. The outcome will be fatal: to reorganize the state under a South American mode of production and domination.

The progressive forces inside and outside the government have to present another economic policy, not a monetarist one but one based on the organization of production and marketing by the public and social sector of the economy, the only way to protect employment and development using the currency. National sovereignty will preserve the possibility of continuing to negotiate with the large powers and the multinationals but with less inequality, the result of our greater strength as a nation. The progressive organizations and groups have to be presented a new policy for redistribution of income--fiscal, investment, expenditures and employment--a more efficient policy for production and employment and a more austere policy as to unnecessary expenditures and profits. This must be closer to a model of accumulation for the

public and social sector which approaches custom, law and morality through new systems of social production and democratic domination, with freely consented and recognized discipline, the basis of modernization and survival, and with concessions to the international capitalist world in which we live which imply recognition of our social and public economy.

In this economic war, another revolution in Mexico is not in order. We must strengthen what we inherited with democratization and discipline of the mass organizations participating in the state and with respect for those that fight autonomously, whether or not they have more radical plans for the immediate future than those of the Mexican revolution. If the state unknowingly destroys its popular, social and national bases, those forces have to present the concrete alternative of a real economic project to control the crisis and lead us toward a more democratic state and a truly more just and freer society.

In the present government, there seem to be two reasonings--one patent and the other latent, one social democrat and the other liberal conservative. The former is expressed by what the president said on 1 December; the latter is expressed in the monetarist, formalist and moralist measures that he is taking. The contradiction between the two will only be resolved favorably for the former--and the country--if the progressive and democratic forces manage to detail a concrete policy that corresponds to the Mexico of nationalized banks. Rather than resting on the currency, it would rest on production. Rather than resting primarily on penal sanctions, it would formulate and apply a new policy of power, accumulation, information and education based on reform or the practice of civil and administrative law and on the support of the people, organized within the state or with autonomy from the state.

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CSO: 3248/401

DELEGATES ADDRESS NONALIGNED MEETING IN MANAGUA

Grenada's Foreign Minister

PA142002 Paris AFP in Spanish 1901 GMT 14 Jan 83

[Text] Managua, 14 Jan (AFP)--Grenada Foreign Minister Unison Whiteman has asked the nonaligned countries movement to analyze "the difficult economic situation of the small countries of Central America and the Caribbean Basin," including Grenada, "a victim of the pressures of the U.S. Government."

Whiteman described those U.S. manipulations in international financial organizations as "an immoral interference in the domestic affairs of Grenada."

Speaking to the plenary session of the coordinating bureau's ministerial meeting, Whiteman said that those pressures have been applied in the IMF, the World Bank and the IDB and have had the objective of "hindering the development plans" of his country.

He said that the international community urgently needs to adopt measures to protect the economies of the small countries, and for this purpose he proposed a meeting of nonaligned experts in 1983 to seek solutions to all the problems of nations that have weak socioeconomic structures and that have been traditionally exploited as centers for the resupply of the industrialized countries.

Whiteman condemned the economic blockade against Cuba and the embargoes and suspension of food supplies to Nicaragua by the U.S. administration.

The Grenada foreign minister also urged the British Government to "return to the negotiating table" on the problem of the Malvinas Islands, whose invasion by the British armed forces he condemned.

He added that Argentina's sovereignty over that archipelago in the South Atlantic "is unquestionable."

He also criticized the "general military exercises" that the United States has carried out in various regions of America and described them as threats against the revolutions of Cuba, Nicaragua and Grenada and the liberation movements in the region.

He said that his country supports the "just struggle" of the Salvadoran people, and he condemned the Salvadoran regime for the "permanent aggression and crimes against the Salvadorans."

He also condemned the "silent war" that the United States is waging against Nicaragua, financing bands of "modern buccaneers" who are coordinated by "Ambassador John Negroponte" in Honduras.

He indicated that the Reagan administration has replied to the Sandinist government's proposals for a dialogue to achieve peace in Central America with active plans to destabilize it and with offers of \$5 million in "immoral aid" to dissident sectors and of \$19 million to the counterrevolutionary bands through the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).

Whiteman also condemned the arms race and said that the nonaligned countries "should not turn a deaf ear to the clamors heard all over the world in favor of world peace."

He asked that Central America and the Caribbean be declared a zone of peace and that all forms of aggression practices in the region end.

Belize's Assad Shoman

PA160230 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1407 GMT 15 Jan 83

[Speech by Belizean delegate Assad Shoman at the closing of nonaligned coordinating bureau meeting in Managua on 13 January; in English with simultaneous translation into Spanish--recorded]

[Text] The fact that the movement is now responding to the growing desire of the peoples of the region to have an independent foreign policy with regard to imperialist aggression and intervention (?and to promote) economic development constitutes an inevitable [word indistinct] of its capacity of action [words indistinct].

We do not need to [word indistinct] the importance of the nonaligned movement because we are convinced that were it not for the (?recognition) of the support the movement gave to our struggle for independence and territorial integrity, Belize would not be here today as a sovereign member of the movement, certain in its conviction that our independence, sovereignty and nonaligned status will be watched over and safeguarded by the movement [words indistinct].

(?Let us record) our gratitude and satisfaction for the reference to Belize in (?our) declaration. I am referring specifically to the denouncement of the expansionist policy of the Guatemalan regime, (?which poses) a new threat to peace and stability in the region. As if to remind us of the continuing threat to my country, only yesterday Guatemalan President Rios Montt talked about his country's desire to apply to Belize, pretending to annex it to Guatemala [sentence as heard].

The timely reaffirmation of the support to our territorial integrity and the warning about the use of force against Belize was, above all, comforting to our people. The threat against Belize leads me also to say that if our movement wishes to avoid having countries in a situation like ours--in which they have to depend on a big power for their security--we will have to analyze this problem and find a way to deal with them.

Mr Chairman, the fact that this meeting is focusing on Latin America and the Caribbean does nothing but (?lead) us to reaffirm and apply the fundamental principles of our movement. In fact, upon analyzing the problems of our region, we reach the inevitable conclusion that the solution to these problems lies on (?a strict adherence) to those principles, on respect for the security and independence of countries, nonintervention and nonmeddling of the internal affairs of countries, the nonuse of force to settle problems and the struggle against imperialism, colonialism, apartheid, racism--including Zionism--and all forms of foreign aggression, occupation, domination, meddling [words indistinct].

Having analyzed the situation in Latin America and the Caribbean, we have come to important conclusions which are embodied in our final document and, therefore, we need not mention them here.

Mr Chairman, we have recognized at this meeting that the most important thing in this sense is to preserve and strengthen the unity of our movement. Only this way will we ever have a chance of success in our struggle.

Despite the great diversity of ideologies in our movement--which is in line with our respect for the principle of political pluralism--there must be equal unity in adherence to the principles of our movement, principles (?which) guarantee our movement, our survival and our development. We must be on guard against and reject any attempt anywhere to divide our movement [passage indistinct] and not to allow anything to come between us and the movement.

I have postponed until now a consideration of the area to which Belize belongs. Allow me to (?discuss) in greater detail the crisis in Central America, which has been the subject of long and intensive debates in this session. We are experiencing a (?growing) crisis which is bringing about growing poverty among the suffering peoples of our region: loss and mutilation of lives, violation of political rights and a perpetuation of underdevelopment and poverty.

This crisis has its roots in the long (?history) of (?oppression) and exploitation which have afflicted our region. [Word indistinct] traditional, oppressive structures with their contempt for the right to live, not to mention the other human rights of peoples, have joined the economic structures which produce poverty, inequality and misery. Together, they have doomed the peoples of the region to constant poverty and dependence on metropolitan interests which ensure social injustice.

Our region has reached the conclusion that the situation is worsened by the intervention and meddling to which these countries have been subjected in

[words indistinct]. Within this context, the revolutions in Central America and the Caribbean are the expression of the majorities in order to be able to improve their living conditions and to free themselves from oppression and exploitation.

All this is history [words indistinct]. However, what we, as members of the nonaligned movement, find alarming and what we must confront is the fact that when a people try to break the vicious circle of underdevelopment and look for an independent path they are immediately subjected to political, economic and military attacks (?in a bid to deprive) them of the inalienable right to (?establish) their own social and economic system.

It is within this context that we have gathered here in Nicaragua, worse heroic struggle to liberate itself from 4 decades of tyranny [word indistinct] colonialism and neocolonialism has won the admiration and solidarity of all of us.

Mr Chairman, the attacks a nation [word indistinct] with such a brave (?desire) to reconstruct and develop itself are well known. They are so eloquent that our meeting has not hesitated to denounce the systematic attacks against Nicaragua from its northern border, the attempts at destabilizing Nicaragua, the innumerable acts of sabotage which result in loss of lives and damages, the systematic campaign of economic destabilization [word indistinct] against Nicaragua. It is also a credit to our movement that (?in view of) this serious situation our meeting has decided to reassert our solidarity with the government of national reconstruction [word indistinct] of Nicaragua in its struggle to defend its revolution and to preserve its sovereignty and independence.

Mr Chairman, it is a duty to [words indistinct] to the Nicaraguan people and government [words indistinct] the excellent conditions which have prevailed during this meeting. I am sure that all of us have been surprised at the fact that a country which has struggled for survival and which is about to receive an attack while we are meeting here, has been able to show such exemplary hospitality regarding not only the conditions at the conference but many others, including the expressions of the rich and revolutionary culture which we saw the other night and the very pleasant reception of Thursday night. I am sure we could have danced all night had it not been because we were aware of the work ethic of the committee chairman, to whom I would like to render tribute here.

Above all, [words indistinct] we have been impressed by the warm spirit of the people of Augusto Cesar Sandino, the general of free men.

In concluding, we in the region recognize that this meeting has been tremendously successful. The spirit of understanding and cooperation which has guided the deliberations has produced a mature and balanced declaration, whose seriousness should mobilize the rest of the international community as the only possible path to [word indistinct] and identify a framework for the solution of the problems afflicting our region.

While waiting for the seventh summit in India, we do so under the certainty that we will be able to build upon the firm bases which we have built here in Managua and upon waiting with satisfaction for the assumption of the chairmanship by Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, we cannot fail to render tribute to the excellent work done by the incumbent chairman, Fidel Castro of Cuba, in the promotion of the principles of nonalignment in the region and the world.

I am sure that all of us will leave this meeting with (?a commitment) to our movement and a dedication to the preservation of its unity [words indistinct] and upon leaving Nicaragua, a country which has endured invasions and violations of its sovereignty, we will draw inspiration from its national hero, Augusto Cesar Sandino, a man who led his army of peasants and workers and expelled the invaders but also a man who 30 years before the formation of our movement was guided by the principles of nonalignment when he said, and I quote:

[Unidentified person, other than translator reads] It should be no surprise to see me and my men fight for the sovereignty of other nations where imperialism has set foot in an attitude of conquest.

[Shoman completes sentence] End of quote.

Many thanks [in Spanish]. It should not be strange to find the nonaligned movement struggling to preserve the sovereignty, independence and nonaligned status of any of the members of our movement wherever it is threatened.

Thank you, Mr Chairman.

Panamanian Foreign Minister

PA142258 Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 14 Jan 83 pp 1A, 6B

[By special correspondent Diana Arosemena]

[Text] Managua--Panamanian Foreign Minister Juan Jose Amado III has advocated bilateral relations as a peaceful means to resolve international conflicts. Amado said this yesterday in Managua, Nicaragua, during the extraordinary ministerial meeting of the nonaligned movement coordinating bureau on Latin America.

Foreign Minister Amado, who heads the Panamanian delegation, spoke for approximately 15 minutes. According to political observers at the event, his speech was (?exceptionally) moderate. The speech mainly referred to the document issued at the end of a meeting held recently on Contadora Island by the foreign ministers of Colombia, Mexico, Venezuela and Panama to discuss increased participation by Latin American countries in the nonaligned movement.

Foreign Minister Amado also advocated replacing military confrontations with dialogue, consultations and negotiations, to achieve peace in Central America.

In a clear reference to the Malvinas conflict, Foreign Minister Amando reiterated the anticolonialist principles of the Panamanian Government and people.

Concerning the Torrijos-Carter treaties, Amado voiced Panama's concern at the negative effects of the existence and application of discrimination and legal procedures that are part of the implementation process, which are detrimental to Panama and its people.

Foreign Minister Amado discussed bilateral and regional subjects with the Egyptian and Cuban foreign ministers. The Panamanian delegation will return to Panama at noon today.

Surinamese Foreign Minister

PA142226 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 14 Jan 83

[Text] Surinamese Foreign Minister Harvey Naarendorp yesterday said that powerful economic and military forces are being used to blackmail the governments of countries that are trying to obtain their true independence.

Speaking at the fifth special meeting of the nonaligned movement coordinating bureau, he expressed support for the Nicaraguan people and government in the defense of their revolution and for the courageous struggle of the Salvadoran people.

He particularly asked the delegations' support for the paragraphs of the final document that denounce the U.S. intervention in El Salvador.

Arab League Delegate

PA142119 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 14 Jan 83

[Excerpt] (Moneses Al Mal), chief of the Arab League delegation that is attending the fifth special ministerial meeting of the nonaligned movement coordinating bureau as a special guest, has charged that Israel has an aggressive nature and that its presence in Latin America is for the purpose of sowing discord and increasing its military sales.

The Arab League representative, who was one of the last speakers yesterday afternoon, recounted Israel's attacks in the Middle East, undertaken with the support of U.S. imperialism. He added that there are countries in Latin America as well that contribute to that expansionist policy. He said that Costa Rica should end its relations with Israel, which he noted are increasing instead because of recently signed agreements.

Congolese, Vietnamese Delegations

PA112242 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1830 GMT 11 Jan 83

[Text] Congolese Foreign Minister Pierre Nze confirmed today that his government will offer its total solidarity in confronting the problems presently afflicting the Central American area. The Congolese foreign minister said that the just cause of Nicaragua and the Central American peoples is the whole world's cause. He leads the Congolese delegation attending the fifth special ministerial meeting of the nonaligned countries coordinating bureau.

Asked about the latest armed aggressions launched by armed Somozist units against Nicaragua from Honduran territory, Pierre Nze said that international public opinion is aware of the Sandinist government's efforts to reduce tension in Latin America, particularly in Central America.

The United States has sent certain delegates from nations that normally do not participate in nonaligned countries movement meetings, to sabotage the event. This was denounced today by Vietnamese Vice Foreign Minister Vo Dong Giang. The Vietnamese official said that these delegations' attempts to sabotage the meeting had failed and that they were defeated in the first day of sessions. They are only a few but waste time with their long speeches.

Vo Dong Giang said that the meeting is a common victory of the peoples fighting for peace and independence, in the measure that they will deal during the event with the main problem: U.S. imperialism's threats and aggression against the peoples of Latin America.

Lao, Jordanian Delegates

PA142322 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1830 GMT 14 Jan 83

[Text] Lao Vice Foreign Minister Souban Salitthilat addressed the plenary session on the first working day of the fifth special nonaligned coordinating bureau ministerial meeting. He condemned the hegemonic, political and military attacks on Nicaragua promoted by the U.S. Government. He also charged that the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency finances and trains Somozist guardsmen in Honduras, who are then sent to Nicaraguan territory to commit sabotage and kill people, and that the U.S. Pentagon sends warships and carries out joint military maneuvers with the Honduran army very near Nicaraguan coasts.

Walid as-Sa'id al-Batayinah, Jordanian ambassador to the United Nations [title as heard], heads his country's delegation to the meeting. He called for peaceful resolution of the area's conflict. He also recognized the importance of Nicaragua's presence in the UN Security Council. He stressed the urgent need to create a Latin American organization including Cuba but not the United States, so that Latin America's political, economic and social problems may be resolved without Yankee imperialist interference. He also condemned the barbarian Zionist actions against the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples and

expressed his solidarity with and support for the struggles of the peoples of El Salvador, Guatemala, Belize, Suriname, Guyana, Cuba, Nicaragua and Panama.

Ecuadorean, Venezuelan Delegates

PA161555 Quito Voz de Los Andes in Spanish 1230 GMT 16 Jan 83

[Text] Venezuela and Ecuador pronounced themselves against foreign intervention in Latin American affairs and expressed concern over the convulsive Central American situation. Special Venezuelan Ambassador Manuel Perez Guerrero and Ecuadorean representative to the UN Hernan Veintimilla joined the Latin American and Caribbean delegates of the nonaligned countries movement, who asked for the adoption of practical measures aimed at achieving solutions for the problems currently affecting the Central Americas.

The area's reality was described as extremely serious and, it was added, it may have very grave consequences not only for countries in the area but for all Latin American countries.

Veintimilla pointed out that the peaceful solutions provided must be a legitimate response to the problems currently faced by Nicaragua, Central America, and the Caribbean and South Atlantic countries.

Mexican Delegate

PA142135 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 14 Jan 83

[Text] Mexico has reiterated its rejection of an armed intervention in Central America and of the argument that the struggle of the region's peoples is the result of the East-West conflict.

Victor Flores Olea, head of the Mexican delegation attending the meeting of the nonaligned movement's coordination bureau, reiterated here that dialogue is the only way to overcome differences.

Mexico, Flores Olea said, agrees with the principles of nonalignment, including the search for international peace and security, as well as with the right to self-determination and the struggle against colonialism.

He added that his country, which is participating as an observer in this meeting, advocates a new world economic order and condemns any kind of racial discrimination.

CSO: 3248/430

CUBA'S MALMIERCA INTERVIEWED ON NONALIGNED MEETING

PA150228 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 8 Jan 83 p 3

[First part of interview with Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca on the nonaligned movement coordinating bureau meeting in Managua, by Agencia Nueva Nicaragua--date and place not given]

[Text] ANN: At the Havana meeting last June, the nonaligned ministers agreed to meet in Managua "to analyze the problems of Central America and the Caribbean." At least in Central America, the situation since then seems to have deteriorated even more, and there is really no sign of a U.S. intention to seek resolution of the region's problems through dialogue. Do you feel that the special meeting in Managua could develop new proposals to resolve the serious situation in Central America?

Malmierca: The decision to hold a special coordinating bureau ministerial meeting in Nicaragua primarily reveals the movement's comprehension of the area's grave situation resulting from colonialist and imperialist policies of aggression and intervention, and is clear proof of its solidarity with the Latin American and Caribbean people's struggle and particularly with Nicaragua for having achieved full independence, for exercising its right to choose its path to development and for defending its victories.

To be able to appreciate fully the importance of the nonaligned movement's decision to hold this special meeting here we can point out that this will be the fifth special meeting in the more than 20 years since the movement was formed. The previous meetings were on the situation in Southern Africa, held in Maputo, Mozambique; on Namibia, held in Algiers, Algeria; on Palestine, held in Kuwait, Kuwait; and on Lebanon and Palestine, held in Nicosia, Cyprus. Each of these subjects undoubtedly encompasses important problems that interest every progressive human being.

The situation in Latin America and the Caribbean is of worldwide interest today due to the rise in popular and democratic struggles and the increase of U.S. imperialist pressures, attacks, interference and threats against the people's legitimate rights to choose their own destinies.

At the coordinating bureau ministerial meeting in Havana in June, 1982, the movement expressed its concern "over the military maneuvers in the region,

"over the attempts to destabilize the governments of Grenada and Nicaragua and over the policy of hostile actions against Cuba that are all promoted and carried out by the United States of America."

This position was reiterated at the latest ministerial meeting, held within the framework of the 37th sessions, when the movement expressed great concern over the continued deterioration of the situation and decided to meet in Managua on this date. Central America is one region where this situation has developed to a high degree, where the struggle has proceeded to higher levels and where the danger of U.S. intervention is greatest. The coordinating bureau meeting in Nicaragua in January is going to strive to put the movement's enormous strength--it comprises almost 100 nations and liberation movements--behind the efforts to find a solution to the serious Central American situation, which today is one of the main sources of tension affecting international peace and security.

We hope that these deliberations--in which a large number of delegations, led in many cases by foreign ministers, will certainly participate--will result in recommendations and proposals that will help to find a just solution that will respect the rights of the struggling peoples and will contribute to the cause of peace.

An Expression of Nicaraguan Prestige

ANN: During the same Havana meeting, "the bureau observed with great concern the increase of serious threats and destabilizing maneuvers against Nicaragua." Regarding this, do you believe that the worsening of aggression against Nicaragua will catalyze a new nonaligned resolution?

Malmierca: The concern expressed in Havana by our movement's coordinating bureau about the increase of serious threats and destabilizing maneuvers against Nicaragua, far from disappearing or diminishing since that meeting, has multiplied, unfortunately.

Concern today is greater than then because of the strong pressures, the increase in destabilizing actions and the constant aggression against the people and territory of Nicaragua that has already claimed the lives of hundreds of humble men and women, including 75 Miskito children who died while they were being evacuated. This meeting in Managua is an expression of the prestige achieved by Sandinist Nicaragua internationally and of the nonaligned movement's support for the country. It will enable the foreign ministers and heads of delegations from all continents and latitudes to make direct, personal and live contact with the Central American reality and especially with the beautiful and exemplary effort of the Nicaraguan people to reconstruct their fatherland, for centuries razed first by colonial domination and later by the exploitation of the imperialists and their servants including the Somozas, their most despicable representatives.

This effort of reconstruction and independent development must overcome the obstacles of constant imperialist attempts to destabilize the process and return the Nicaraguan people to subjugation, misery and exploitation.

Therefore, we hope the communique that the meeting will adopt expresses our movement's solidarity with the struggle of the Nicaraguan people and condemns U.S. imperialism's destabilizing plans, attacks and the foreign threats and aggression, for which it utilizes Honduras as its main instrument and which cause grief and death to the heroic people of Sandino.

The presence of a large group of nonaligned foreign ministers in Managua is, in fact, a defeat for the policy of harassing and isolating Nicaragua.

ANN: Cuba has constantly maintained a favorable position on the achievement of a negotiated solution in Central America; therefore, it has endorsed initiatives such as that of the Mexican and Venezuelan Governments. This time, is the Cuban delegation bringing some specific proposition to the Managua meeting?

Nonaligned Movement Supports a Negotiated Solution

Malmierca: Cuba has always demonstrated its unbreakable desire for peace in Central America and for coexistence in an environment of cooperation, security and respect among the peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean. We will not spare efforts at this meeting for positions that will contribute to the achievement of a negotiated agreement to the conflict experienced today by the Central American peoples.

The meeting will have a draft communique, prepared by the Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry, as a basis for its work. We must also work to draft an action plan that will include specific measures of support for our region's peoples. We hope to make many contacts with representatives of nonaligned member countries to discuss the situation, in an attempt to seek formulas that will contribute to the achievement of a negotiated solution in Central America with the participation of all representative political forces of El Salvador, including the FMLN and the Revolutionary Democratic Front [FDR].

We are sure the Managua meeting's conferees will reiterate the position adopted at the Havana meeting in June, 1982, in support of the French-Mexican declaration and the Nicaraguan proposal on behalf of the FMLN-FDR.

The Causes of the Violence

ANN: Various pro-U.S. Central American governments have repeatedly said that the region's violence is the result of a systematic campaign by Cuba and the Soviet Union to destabilize them. How true is that view and, in your opinion, what are the causes of the revolutionary insurgency in the region?

Malmierca: In truth, those are not statements of area governments. They are statements by U.S. leaders that are repeated with absolute disregard for reality and history by some of their subjects who temporarily hold government positions in specific countries.

The violence imposed by the imperialists and their servants has been present for dozens of years, long before the Cuban people achieved their revolutionary victory.

Sandino fought and defeated the Yankee interventionists almost 50 years ago, and afterward his assassins imposed the first of the Somozas. The Nicaraguan people fought since then until they achieved their victory.

Similar histories could be repeated in each area country. The imperialists launched Castillo Armas in 1954 to overthrow the popular government of Arbenz in Guatemala. Since then, the Guatemalan people have not stopped struggling.

Over 40 years ago, the people's insurrection in El Salvador was bloodily crushed, causing thousands and thousands of victims. Farabundo Marti, who had fought alongside Sandino, inspired then, as now, the fighters for the rights and freedom of the Salvadoran people.

Oppression, the fierce exploitation, the total lack of freedom, hunger, poverty, backwardness and neocolonial domination are the causes of the violence with which the peoples today reply to the dozens and dozens of years of reactionary and imperialist violence.

ANN: In the past meeting of the coordinating bureau in Havana, a motion was passed in support of Argentina, which was then experiencing the aggression of British colonialism in the Malvinas. Shortly afterward, the outcome of the war resulted in Great Britain's victory. Will this subject be discussed at the Managua meeting?

Malmierca: The subject of Argentine sovereignty over the Malvinas was dealt with not only in the coordinating bureau ministerial meeting in Havana in June last year. The nonaligned movement has expressed in all its important meetings and conferences its solidarity with the Argentine nation and people's right to reestablish their sovereignty over that part of their territory. The Managua meeting will also discuss that subject because the colonial occupation of the Malvinas Islands continues and Argentine sovereignty has not been reestablished.

The Malvinas and the TIAR [Inter-American Reciprocal Assistance Treaty] Crisis

ANN: Continuing on that subject, the Malvinas crisis undoubtedly unleashed the most serious crisis of the so-called "Inter-American system" since Cuba was excluded from the OAS. Do you think it effectively marks the beginning of the end of that system, and what would you propose to replace it?

Malmierca: The crisis of the so-called Inter-American system was made more evident and clearer as a result of the U.S. support for the military and other actions of the British colonialists to reestablish their control over the Malvinas. This was an obvious aggression against a member state of the Inter-American system. In the hour of truth, the United States supported the extra-continental power against a Latin American state. It did not respect the so-called TIAR. That, however, is not new. We have known for years that this treaty was conceived by the United States as an instrument to maintain its control, the control of the U.S. imperialists over our Latin American and Caribbean peoples. That is why the crisis of a system conceived to serve the interests of the enemies of our peoples began a long time ago, and the crisis

of the Malvinas was the occasion when the false character of the system was most evident. Many governments have clearly and formally stated that our America, which begins at the Rio Grande and extends to Patagonia, needs to create coordination instruments, draft our own positions, increase mutual coordination and hold discussions with the powerful neighbor that is alien to our realities and is a declared enemy of our right to decide our own future and choose the path of our development.

Cuba has always welcomed any initiative that is useful for bringing the peoples of our America closer to each other, particularly at this time when, as a result of the development and outcome of the Malvinas conflict, there has been a flowering of that important feeling of Latin American unity.

On many occasions, we have said that the holding of meetings of the Latin American and Caribbean states to coordinate their positions and strengthen their relations would be a positive element to which we are willing to offer all our support and participation. We view as important that all the states be invited to participate in such meetings or in the creation of any institution that defends those objectives. The English-speaking Caribbean states should participate in the efforts to create the new institutions that represent all our America.

In summary, the important thing is that we advance in coordination and consultation without exclusions so as to be able to decide jointly the best solutions for our current situation.

CSO: 3248/432

MALMIERCA INTERVIEW--PART II

PA161600 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 9 Jan 83 p 3

[Second part of Agencia Nueva Nicaragua interview with Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca regarding the nonaligned coordinating bureau meeting in Managua; date and place of interview not given]

[Text] ANN: In Havana, resolutions intended to bring an end to U.S. military bases in Latin America were approved and a call for compliance with the Panama Canal treaties was made. Will these subjects be brought up once again, especially the one involving the Guantanamo Base and the new bases that the U.S. is planning to establish in different Central American countries, especially in Honduras?

Malmierca: The struggle for our peoples to recover the sovereignty over their territory and territories occupied illegally or through treaties imposed by the powerful imperial state will continue until we have achieved full recognition of our rights.

This battle is also an important part of the effort made to safeguard peace and stop the arms race, which represents a terrible and real threat for the peoples of the world.

The demand for respect for the treaty signed by President [as published] Torrijos and President Carter is a demand made by the Panamanian people, all our peoples and the nonaligned movement; and we must reiterate our position regarding this matter at the special ministerial meeting of the coordinating bureau to be held in Managua.

Since the first summit meeting in 1961, the nonaligned movement has stated at all its meetings and conferences its support for the Cuban people and for the restitution of the territory illegally occupied in Guantanamo by a U.S. Naval base. We are sure that this demand will be reiterated during the January meeting in Managua.

Since its creation the nonaligned movement has stated clearly and repeatedly its opposition to the creation of foreign military bases, and since its creation in 1961 it has demanded that the refusal to grant facilities and

territories for the creation of foreign military bases be one of the main requirements for admission of a new state to the movement.

At this time when all mankind is threatened by the feverish extension of the imperialism's aggressive plans for the creation of new military bases, the extension of the so-called rapid deployment force and the unrestrained arms race, we are sure that the nonaligned movement, meeting to analyze the Latin American and Caribbean situation, will condemn the imperialist attempts to create new military bases in Honduras, Puerto Rico and in any other place from where they can carry out their aggressive actions against the independent states that will not bow down to U.S. orders.

Balance of Cuban Leadership

ANN: After 3 years of Cuba being at the head of the nonaligned movement, how do you evaluate this period? Could you make a preliminary balance of Cuban actions as the head of the movement?

Malmierca: It has been more than 3 years. Cuba should have handed over the presidency of the movement at the sixth summit meeting which was scheduled for September 1982 in Baghdad, Iraq; but because of the prolongation of the military conflict between Iraq and Iran, it was evident that the conditions were not appropriate to hold the meeting there at that time. President Fidel Castro took many steps to prevent this situation from becoming a threat to the unity and capacity for action of the movement. Iraqi President Saddam Husayn replied in a very constructive manner, expressing his willingness to have another member country host the meeting.

President Fidel Castro then held direct meetings with all the chiefs of state or governments of member countries, which allowed the unanimous approval of the Indian capital city as host city for the sixth summit meeting.

The conflict between Iraq and Iran also demanded many efforts on the part of the movement's chairman. From the beginning of the conflict in September 1980, President Fidel Castro addressed the heads of state of the two countries, urging them to seek ways to end a conflict that was not only a threat to the people of the two states, to all of our third world peoples and the movement of nonaligned countries; but also a serious danger to peace and international security. The nonaligned movement later appointed a commission--which included Cuba, India, Zambia and the PLO--which has not rested in its efforts to help find a political, peaceful, just and honorable solution to this conflict.

President Fidel Castro addressed the 34th sessions of the UN General Assembly to report on the results of the sixth summit conference and to raise our people's demands, which he summed up by stating that there can be no development without peace and no peace without development.

There has been no important situation during these past years on which President Fidel Castro has not stated the position of our movement, and this is

recorded in the 22 messages that have been sent to the heads of state of the member countries and to the UN secretary general.

Among them we can mention the message of January 1980 on the situation in Zimbabwe, which reflected the concern of the frontline countries; the message of June 1980 urging participation in the UN General Assembly's emergency session on Palestine; the message of that same month asking for physical and moral support for Angola as a result of South Africa's aggressions; the message issued in November 1980 to explain the development of efforts to mediate the Iraq-Iran conflict; the message of December 1981 on the mercenary invasion of the Seychelles; the message of February 1982 on the possibility of an imminent Israel invasion of Lebanon; the message of March 1982 regarding Nicaragua's urgent request to convene the UN Security Council in view of an imminent military intervention; the message issued in May 1982 asking for efforts to stop the Anglo-North American aggression against the Argentine people; and the message of July 1982 regarding the intensification of the criminal Israel aggression against Lebanon. In November last year Companero Fidel Castro also sent a message to the heads of state regarding the threat of an imminent aggression by South Africa against Mozambique. These are just a few examples.

Of the five special meetings held by the movement throughout its history, four--and this includes the one held in January in Managua--have been held during the period in which Cuba has been chairman of the movement.

President Fidel Castro has also made various efforts to help settle differences among nonaligned member countries, such as in the well-known cases of Libya and Malta in the Mediterranean, Guinea and Guinea-Bissau in West Africa and Afghanistan in Southeast Asia.

As the seat of the movement, Cuba has been responsible for organizing and chairing other important meetings, such as the fourth meeting of action program coordinating countries, the meeting of education and culture experts and senior officials, the ninth meeting of the committee on radio broadcasting cooperation, the second meeting of health experts and the meeting of coordinators in this field. In addition, 11 meetings in the various fields of cooperation of the movement's action program were held in 1982 alone.

Companero Fidel Castro has occupied the position of chairman of the movement of nonaligned countries amid a viriluent campaign spearheaded by imperialism and the reaction aimed primarily at sabotaging the sixth summit in Havana and, secondly, at preventing the implementation of its agreements.

The imperialists predicted that the sixth conference would be the summit that could slit the movement, but the sixth summit became a new landmark of unity, strength and cohesion of the nonaligned and a step forward in the role it plays in international relations.

In addition, Cuba assumed the chairmanship during a complex and difficult international situation aggravated by the strain and tensions around old and new focal points of conflict.

President Fidel Castro's efforts at the head of the movement of nonaligned countries have prompted the recognition of the member countries, as expressed at the plenary session of the ministers and heads of delegations held in New York in October, and of many heads of state and government, who have publicly expressed this on various occasions throughout these past years.

We are now making every possible effort to make the seventh summit conference a great success so it can reinforce the cohesion and unity of the movement; maintain the continuity of its decisions against colonialism, neocolonialism, imperialism and racism, including apartheid; and help fulfill the noble objectives and principles for which we have been struggling since its foundation.

The Nonaligned's Outlooks

ANN: The seventh summit scheduled for New Delhi is drawing near. In your opinion, what is the movement's outlook, and what will its tasks be during the next 3 years?

Malmierca: Without doubt, the main task of the movement of nonaligned countries at the present time is to help maintain and defend peace. Never before has mankind faced such a dreadful danger of extinction as that posed by a nuclear war.

Therefore, it is necessary to joint forces in denouncing the danger represented by the adventuresome policy of provocation, nuclear rearmament and confrontation as well as the arms race that the administration headed by President Reagan is carrying out.

We must also analyze what means and possibilities we have to open paths toward our people's economic and social development.

The huge differences between the industrialized capitalist countries and our peoples, who have endured centuries of colonial domination and imperialist exploitation, must not continue to grow.

The current world requires a period of large-scale international cooperation in order to raise the standard of living of peoples, stop the senseless arms race and safeguard peace.

The movement of nonaligned countries must also continue to be the powerful independent force it now constitutes and be capable of exerting a positive influence in solving the main international problems, which must be divided into categories placing peace and development at the top of the list.

The struggle against the remnants of colonial domination throughout the world and against neocolonialism, imperialism and racism, including apartheid, involves banners that must be displayed in the activities of our movement. They must find a practical and concrete application in each one of our regions, ranging from solidarity with the Palestinian people and their vanguard, the PLO, to opposition to the Zionist occupation of Arab and Palestinian

territories; support for the independence of the Saharan people; conversion of the Indian Ocean into a peace zone; return of Diego Garcia Island to Mauritius; condemnation of the hateful apartheid system and the aggressions against the frontline countries; firm solidarity with the South-West African people's organization and its struggle for independence; defense of the Cypriot people's right to territorial integrity, sovereignty and nonaligned status; support for the struggle of the Argentine people to recover their sovereignty over the Malvinas Islands, for the Bolivian people's right to have an outlet to the sea, for Panama's sovereignty over its entire territory and respect for the Torrijos-Carter, and for Puerto Rico's independence; return of the territory illegally occupied by the Naval Base in Guantanamo; solidarity with the Central American people; support for the heroic fighters of the FMLN and the Democratic Revolutionary Front, who are struggling to achieve true independence; and solidaristic support for the Nicaraguan Government of National Reconstruction, which is directing the efforts of an entire people, the followers of Sandino, to develop their fatherland and reject aggressions or intervention on the part of North American imperialism and its lackeys.

CSO: 3248/432

CUBA'S MALMIERCA MEETS WITH NONALIGNED DELEGATES

FL142151 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2104 GMT 14 Jan 83

[Text] Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca has held talks with chiefs of delegations attending Managua's meeting of the nonaligned coordinating bureau. The chief of Cuban diplomacy met with Mexico's Foreign Undersecretary Victor Flores Olea, with whom he discussed aspects related to the development of the nonaligned meeting being held in Nicaragua.

Malmierca and Flores agreed on the importance of the great number of countries and delegates attending the fifth extraordinary meeting of the coordinating bureau in preparation for the seventh summit conference of the movement in New Delhi.

Prior to his speech at the meeting, the Mexican foreign undersecretary noted the role played by Commander in Chief Fidel Castro as chairman of the non-aligned movement during the past 40 months.

During the meeting with Flores, Malmierca referred to the role played by Mexico as observer in the nonaligned countries movement, and explained it had acted as a full member. Malmierca and Flores agreed that the importance of the Managua meeting helps in dissuading attempts to intensify tensions and violence in the region.

Malmierca said the recent meeting of the foreign ministers from Panama, Mexico, Colombia and Venezuela on Contadora Island was very positive. In this meeting it was demonstrated that the peace initiatives for Central America and the Caribbean continue to make headway.

The Cuban foreign minister also met with the chiefs of delegations from Panama, Venezuela, Argentina, Bolivia, Iraq, Kuwait, Angola, India, Ethiopia and Grenada.

CSO: 3248/431

GOVERNMENT LEADERS RECEIVE NONALIGNED DELEGATES

PA111749 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1653 GMT 11 Jan 83

[By Filadelfo Martinez]

[Excerpts] Managua, 11 Jan (ACAN-EFE)--Following yesterday's meeting of experts of the nonaligned coordinating bureau, preparations were underway today to open the foreign ministers meeting tomorrow. Several condemnations of U.S. policy in Central America are expected at the meeting. [passage omitted]

As for the beginning of the meeting, there was a lengthy discussion yesterday among the ambassadors and officials to try to determine the specific subjects that the conference would consider, after Peru's representative suggested that discussion be limited to the problems "of Central America, the Caribbean, and the South Atlantic."

The experts finally decided, however, that the topic of the conference would be "the problems of Latin America and the Caribbean," in accordance with the mandate issued by the sixth nonaligned summit, which was held in Cuba. [passage omitted]

While the preparatory technical meeting for the fifth coordinating meeting was drawing to a close, some heads of delegations met with members of the Nicaraguan Government junta and with the commanders of the FSLN National Directorate.

Argentine Foreign Minister Juan Ramon Aguirre Lanari held a bilateral meeting with the government junta coordinator Commander Daniel Ortega Saavedra, who will deliver a speech opening the foreign ministers meeting tomorrow.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Butrus Ghali met with Commander Victor Tirado Lopez, while Ethiopian Foreign Minister Gedle-Giorgis Feeleke met with Nicaraguan Interior Minister Commander Tomas Borge. Sergio Ramirez, another member of the Nicaraguan junta, met with other heads of delegations, including Kuwaiti UN Ambassador Nuhammad Abu al-Hasan. Nicaraguan Defense Minister Commander Humberto Ortega met in his office with Surinamese Foreign Minister Harvey Naarendorp.

FOREIGN MINISTER D'ESCOTO INTERVIEWED

Receives 'TELAM' Correspondent

PY130024 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0230 GMT 12 Jan 83

[By special correspondent]

[Text] Managua, 11 Jan (TELAM)--In an interview with TELAM, Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto said that he had no evidence about the presence of Argentine military officers in Central America. However, he said that he believes that the British colonial aggression is not against one country but against all Latin American nations.

The Nicaraguan foreign minister noted that after the incidents in the South Atlantic, Argentina, now more than ever, is patently determined to have an active participation in the movement of nonaligned countries and to strengthen even more its relations with Latin American countries which are its true friends.

During a meeting with this correspondent this afternoon at the Cesar Augusto Silva Convention Center where the fifth meeting of the coordinating bureau of the nonaligned countries movement is being held, D'Escoto noted that the objective of this meeting was to discuss the situation in Latin America and the Caribbean, but that this does not mean that other Latin American issues that deserve consideration will not be discussed.

He added: "This meeting and the issues to be discussed at it were approved at the last meeting in Havana." D'Escoto noted that at the Havana meeting it was decided that the situation in Latin America and the Caribbean would be discussed at this meeting in Nicaragua. However, the Havana declaration does not prevent other issues pertaining to Latin America from being discussed.

Asked how the sessions are going, the Nicaraguan foreign minister said: "I believe everything is going well." He added that the summit of ministers will begin tomorrow.

He added: "The drafting committee is already working and studying point by point the Managua declaration draft despite the fact that yesterday there was a delay caused by a motion to allow observer countries to have access to the drafting committee."

Asked whether that motion, which was submitted by Yugoslavia, implies that observer countries requesting membership in the nonaligned group will be rejected, D'Escoto said that all observer countries wishing to join the organization may do so by requesting full membership.

Asked whether he was referring specifically to Venezuela which has the intention of requesting entrance into the nonaligned countries group, the Nicaraguan foreign minister noted that there are some countries that have decided to be observers and would rather remain observers.

Answering a question he said: "It is natural for the U.S. Department of State to instruct its ambassador on the U.S. Government position regarding this meeting."

D'Escoto added: The U.S. ambassador to Nicaragua has expressed to us his concern over the conclusions of the Managua final declaration. Moreover, the U.S. ambassador frankly told us that U.S. ambassadors have been instructed to do the same in the capital cities of member countries.

The foreign minister noted: "Moreover, we are aware that several member countries of the nonaligned movement have been told that their relations with the United States will depend on how these countries defend U.S. interests, both in the drafting committee and in the plenary sessions.

Asked about the presence in Managua of two assistants to Ambassador Jean Kirkpatrick, U.S. representative to the United Nations, D'Escoto said: "I do not think this is something to worry about."

As for the Managua final declaration, D'Escoto noted: Many countries have told us that the final draft is very weak, and they have recommended a series of amendments.

D'Escoto praised the Venezuelan peace proposal for Central America and its discussion at a meeting of foreign ministers of Panama, Colombia, Mexico and Venezuela that was held on Contadora Island.

D'Escoto noted that U.S. pressures have always existed. It will not be the first meeting about which the United States notes that the conclusions are not in keeping with the principles of the nonaligned movement, but the United States should not be telling us what our principles are.

He added: "If it wants, the United States can request membership in the organization. But since it is not interested in the principles of our movement, the Americans are not the ones to tell us what these principles should be."

Asked about Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's visit to the Malvinas Islands, D'Escoto noted that this incident will be discussed in an exhaustive manner in this meeting. He said that Nicaragua and the entire movement believe this is an act of arrogance.

The foreign minister said that after the incidents in the South Atlantic, Argentina is patently determined, now more than ever, to have an active participation in the nonaligned countries movement and to strengthen even more its relations with Latin American countries, which are its true friends.

The Nicaraguan foreign minister noted that he had no evidence about the presence of Argentine military officers in Central America. He added that Margaret Thatcher's attitude is viewed as an act of great arrogance. Moreover, the entire Latin American continent, which took the British colonialist action as an aggression against the entire Latin American continent, not merely as an aggression against a country, has repudiated Mrs Thatcher's attitude.

Charges U.S. Threat to Nonaligned

PA121801 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1629 GMT 12 Jan 83

[Text] Managua, 12 Jan (ACAN-EFE)--The United States has warned several countries that their diplomatic relations can change in the future, according to the position they assume at the fifth nonaligned movement coordinating bureau meeting, Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto charged.

In a statement to the official newspaper BARRICADA, D'Escoto, who did not expand on his charge, added that the majority of the 116 delegations attending the meeting wants the declaration to include "strongest" charges against the United States.

D'Escoto also said that other delegations that are, according to him, a minority, want the Managua declaration to be "softer" regarding the criticism of U.S. policy toward Latin America, particularly toward Central America.

D'Escoto reiterated that it has been a habit of the United States to give instructions to its ambassadors in all the capitals of nonaligned movement member countries to let the governments know its wishes.

D'Escoto mentioned the visit that Anthony Quainton, U.S. ambassador to Nicaragua, made to him prior to the meeting to let him know about the worries and observations of the U.S. State Department regarding the contents of the draft of the Managua declaration, submitted by the Sandinist government.

Quainton resented that part of the draft, currently under discussion, that only attacked "U.S. imperialism," instead of "equally distributing its blows against all imperialism."

Some foreign ministers attending the meeting in Managua have disclosed in preliminary meetings that the United States has warned their countries that future relations with them "will be affected according to the way they act at the meeting" in Managua, D'Escoto charged.

According to the foreign ministers, the United States will take into consideration the position of some countries at the commission drafting the Managua

declaration, as in the debates at the plenary session, which opens today, in which at least 30 speakers are expected to talk.

D'Escoto also referred to the case of "some" delegations that have at the last minute expressed their wish to "soften the tone" of the document that will "fully" analyze the Latin American problem and in particular the Central American crisis.

Another issue on which the delegates seem to differ refers to Israeli intervention in some Latin American countries.

Some delegations even favor giving the names of countries where the alleged "Zionist penetration in Latin America" is taking place.

Discusses Progress of Meeting

PA150329 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0229 GMT 15 Jan 83

[Station interview with Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto on the floor of the Cesar Augusto Silva International Convention Center in Managua--live]

[Text] [Question] Father, we would like to know the initial evaluations of this ministerial meeting.

[Answer] We believe it has been extraordinarily successful, not only due to the large attendance--we have more than 100 delegations here--the large number of countries and the high-ranking representatives--more than 33 or 34 ministers--but also because of the content of the communique, the first that deals exclusively with Latin America in the history of the nonaligned movement.

The mere fact that this meeting is being held in Nicaragua clearly reflects the spirit of solidarity and the prestige that the Sandinist people's revolution enjoys in the nonaligned movement. The document has a positive section on Central America's problems, the Caribbean, the South Atlantic and South America in general. It also has an economic part, which is progressing very nicely, but the drafting commission has not completed considering this part.

Nevertheless, I can tell you right now that from every viewpoint the meeting has been a resounding success and we are very pleased.

[Question] Father D'Escoto, President Monge today said that everyone in the nonaligned movement is communist. What is your opinion of this?

[Answer] I have no great desire to give an opinion or to try to explain this kind of remark. I believe it would be interesting to ask President Monge to explain what he means. I ask the representative of any country represented here his opinion of President Monge's remark. That will explain the remark to those who might be confused by it.

In fact, the remark is completely absurd and unjustified because it is not true. It is not a matter of whether it is good or bad to be communist. However, to say that Egypt or many of the other countries represented here are communist is not only absurd but sheer folly.

[Question] Father, we have observed the presence of two who were uninvited. One of them represents U.S. imperialism and the other is Israel. What is your opinion of this interference, as some observers have described this document of pressure that the U.S. Government tried to introduce?

[Answer] I would not make a distinction between U.S. imperialism and the Zionist regime of Israel. They are exactly the same thing. Israel is the U.S. imperialist octopus in the Middle East. It is the instrument, completely inseparable from U.S. imperialism. They have been present here because this movement is dedicated to the struggle against imperialism and Zionism, to say it in clear and emphatic terms. There has been great concern over the escalation of the Zionist presence in our area, especially right here in Central America. It has repeatedly been said that the objective of U.S. imperialism here is to convert Honduras into the Israel of Central America.

This has greatly alarmed many of the countries represented here and they have even been discussing ideas that they want to propose on the matter at the next summit in New Delhi, which could bring many great surprises for certain countries in the area.

[Question] Thank you, father. Excuse us for taking your time; we know you are very busy.

CSO: 3248/431

TINOCO ANSWERS QUESTIONS ON 'DIRECT LINE' PROGRAM

PA072213 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 0200 GMT 7 Jan 83

["Direct Line" phone-in program, with callers questioning guest Deputy Foreign Minister Victor Hugo Tinoco--live]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Question] This is (Cruz Rodriguez, from Ciudad Jardin. I would like you to answer a question: Under the present circumstances, and in the face of the U.S. political aggression and the constant attacks perpetrated by the Somozist bands, what will be the repercussions of holding the meeting of the nonaligned countries movement coordinating bureau here in Managua? That is my question.

[Answer] The coordinating bureau meeting here in Managua will be of great importance; it will be extremely important. We might describe it as a second Nicaraguan victory, after it obtained a nonpermanent seat in the UN Security Council. Nicaragua's inclusion in the Security Council meant that most countries endorsed Nicaragua's political positions on behalf of peace. It also meant that the U.S. charge that Nicaragua was threatening its neighbors was being rejected, since the Security Council (?admits) those who promote peace and can guarantee it.

This nonaligned meeting will be of special significance since the agenda includes the topic of Latin America, with debates centered on Central America's problems--the problem of imperialist aggression against the struggling Central American peoples and the problem posed by imperialist aggression against the Sandinist people's revolution. So far 97 delegations confirmed their attendance at this event--delegations from 85 countries and from 12 organizations from various parts of the world. Of these 97 delegations, 30 will be headed by foreign or other ministers, 9 will be headed by deputy ministers and the remaining 58 delegations will be headed by ambassadors and various other officials.

Thus, you can appreciate the magnitude as well as the political and moral strength of the event that is slated to open in another 5 days here in Managua. This event is really of unique importance. We might say that in all of Central America's history--one would have to review Latin America's hemispheric history, with the exception of Cuba, which has been the venue for a number of very important events--this will be one of the most important meetings ever

held in this area, with the most repercussions. This will have a positive influence on the support for the Sandinist people's revolution. All these delegates will definitely not come here to question the Sandinist people's revolution. They are coming to question imperialism and to express their support for the Sandinist people's revolution and for the struggling Latin American people. [passage omitted]

[Announcer] The agenda that will be discussed here reportedly will deal exclusively with Latin America's problems. What else could you tell our audience about this agenda? [words indistinct]

[Answer] The decision to hold this ministerial meeting here in Managua was made at the coordinating bureau's last meeting, held in June in Havana. This decision was later ratified at another meeting held by the movement in September in New York. It was decided then that the meeting would discuss and review Latin America's problems as a whole. Obviously, the emphasis will be placed on the so-called areas of tension or crisis areas. We are thus talking about the Malvinas, especially in the wake of England's imperialist and colonialist aggression, and about Central America and the Caribbean.

We will discuss all these topics. This means that a number of more specific issues will also be discussed. The Puerto Rican problem will probably be mentioned, that is, Puerto Rico's colonial status. Cuba will also be mentioned, and solidarity will be expressed with this country in the face of imperialist aggression. Solidarity will also be expressed with Cuba in connection with the illegal status of the Guantanamo Base, which the United States maintains. Solidarity will also be expressed with Nicaragua, of course, in the face of imperialist aggression; as well as with El Salvador and with Panama's demands in connection with the Canal. Some appeal for understanding will probably be made in connection with the conflict that currently exists between Venezuela and Guyana. The Malvinas problem in the South Atlantic will also be mentioned, as well as a number of other South American problems.

[Question] Good evening. My name is (Elda Castillo), and I'm calling from (Bello Horizonte). I would like Deputy Foreign Minister Tinoco to explain the following to me: When one says that the movement is nonaligned, does this mean that it is against both the United States and the Soviet Union? That is my question.

[Answer] We think this question is very important, Mrs (Castillo), because it helps us understand both the nature and importance of the nonaligned countries movement. As I said earlier, the nonaligned movement is based on a number of fundamental tenets and premises.

The nature of the nonaligned movement was defined at the Sixth Summit Meeting held in Havana in 1979. The nonaligned movement's fundamental principles were defined at that time: anti-imperialism or the struggle against imperialism; the struggle against colonialism the struggle against neocolonialism; and the struggle against racism, apartheid and against all manner of discrimination and domination over the peoples. These and other principles serve as guidelines (?for) the movement's actions and cohesion.

Although the movement is heterogeneous and includes countries that we might call capitalist along with the socialist countries--as well as countries with individual characteristics in terms of their economic and social systems, countries with mixed economies, etc.--even so, the capacity to unite interests and to pull through because of those interests brings them together on the basis of these fundamental principles. The concept of nonalignment is not a geometric concept, as some have thought at times, suggesting that to be nonaligned means not being on anyone's side and remaining equidistant of the United States on the one hand and the Soviet Union on the other. What is clear within the movement is the fact that the movement exists to fight imperialism and any other form of imperialist domination anywhere in the world, anywhere in the third world. History and reality both show imperialism to be the main aggressor of the world's peoples in modern times. The movement is therefore markedly anti-imperialistic. That is what characterizes the movement. [passage omitted]

[Question] Why do they say that there is communism in Nicaragua, and other such things? I don't think this is true.

[Answer] Regarding the companera's observation, I would say that it is important that we remember that part of imperialism's propaganda against our country and all the peoples of the world who are struggling to consolidate their democratic and independent processes is to try to give anti-imperialist positions the name of communism. Nevertheless, an essential principle of the nonaligned countries movement, which includes capitalist and socialist countries, as well as, let us say, those in the middle, is precisely anti-imperialism, the denunciation of the actions of imperialism wherever they are found. So our clear positions in foreign policy [words indistinct] in our domestic positions, our foreign policy positions that are firmly anti-imperialist and nonaligned, are part of the political inheritance and wealth of the nonaligned countries movement. The use of the term communism to try to characterize our foreign policy or the principles we uphold is just a maneuver. Besides trying to give a negative image to communism, it also tries to create a negative image of our foreign policy and domestic policy. This is part of an international propaganda maneuver. [passage omitted]

[Question] If Nicaragua is a nonaligned country, it should be against all imperialism, as you explained earlier. I would like to know why it didn't condemn the Soviet imperialism against Afghanistan. Thank you for your reply. My name is (Francisco Gonzalez), and I live in (Villa Jardin), No 16.

[Answer] Within the movement there has not been a clear definition on the Afghan problem. It is interesting to note this. The movement has issued specific statements on the Afghan situation. Those statements are much more wise and correct than the imperialist propaganda that is constantly carried in the media, in the transnational news agencies. For example, the movement has issued statements on the destabilization actions and the support for the counterrevolutionary bands against the Afghan government. It has issued appeals for the countries involved to understand each other. Therefore, the movement has assumed a much more correct position on the Afghan problem than the one heard at the level of the new media. Naturally, the transnational

news agencies remain silent on these positions of the movement, so it is thought at the world level that the movement is not interested in or has no position on the problem. It does have a position. The thing is that it is a position that imperialism does not want to publicize. Imperialism is only interested in publicizing its viewpoint and its opinion on what is occurring in Afghanistan. The movement is a heterogeneous one that includes capitalist and socialist countries that have different positions. This is an expression of the diversity of its components. It has issued specific statements on Afghanistan. It has issued a statement on the presence of Soviet troops in Afghanistan. It has pointed out the advisability of the withdrawal of those troops from Afghanistan, but it has also issued statements on the promotion of counterrevolutionary bands by external forces, the problem of the existence of counterrevolutionary radios aimed against that government, and all those kinds of problems.

There are a number of delicate issues that are involved in the Afghan problem, such as a country's ability or right to call specific foreign forces to its aid. You know that all sovereign countries have this right; this is stated in Article 51 of the UN Charter. It states that a country that feels it is attacked has the right to ask for the solidarity of one or a number of countries. This kind of problem is involved here.

There are a number of countries, and not only socialist countries, that seriously question the perspective or focus that is given in the international news media to the Afghan problem. As I said, the nonaligned movement maintains a position that is quite different from the one that is usually expressed through the international news media. Regarding the Afghan problem we have assumed a position alongside the countries that are described as the most non-aligned in the movement. Nicaragua's position on Afghanistan is the same position as such serious and respected countries that have been long-time members of the movement as Algeria, India, Syria and some 20 other countries. Therefore, this has to be viewed very carefully. [passage omitted]

[Announcer] What kind of resolution does the bureau issue after meetings like the one that will be held in Nicaragua? What kind of resolution does it adopt, or can it make some kind of special recommendation to a ministerial body or the summit? What is the mechanism involved?

[Answer] The meeting of the coordinating bureau in Managua will issue a communique. It has been the tradition that such a communique will gather the positions of the movement with regard to the Latin American problems, since the topic of the meeting is Latin America. These positions will surely have an impact and will have to be greatly taken into account at the forthcoming summit in New Delhi in March. They will not only be taken into account at the summit, but they will also have an effect on the United Nations. When the United Nations discusses the Latin American problems, such as the Central American problem and the Malvinas problem, the nonaligned resolutions will have a special influence. Apart from the communique, it is probable that the meeting will issue some kind of more specific recommendations that will have to be complemented or implemented.

[Question] My name is (Francisco Collez), from Nandaime. Why doesn't Nicaragua formally accuse the United States and Honduras of being aggressors against our country?

[Answer] Companero Francisco, in truth there have been systematic accusations against the United States and against the complicity of Honduran sectors in the daily aggressions against Nicaragua. U.S. imperialism has already been condemned in other nonaligned meetings for this aggression against Nicaragua; and as a result of the past months, when the U.S. administration has barefacedly admitted that it is participating, financing and arming counterrevolutionary bands to attack Nicaragua, to kill our peasants, border guard troops, militiamen and people, there will surely be a clearer condemnation by the movement.

Now then, what occurs is that in specific circumstances, more specific measures can only be taken at the Security Council. You must remember that the United States has veto power in the Security Council. The Security Council is the only international body that can decide on more specific measures, but it is prevented from doing so because the United States systematically blocks such measures. That is what occurred last year when Commander Daniel Ortega went to the United Nations in New York to make his charges, and the United States not only blocked a draft resolution calling for a specific action but blocked a draft resolution that was a political statement. It even blocked that. Therefore, it is a somewhat difficult situation in which we must continue constantly denouncing imperialism.

Imperialism is condemned by the peoples of the world. Evidence that imperialism is condemned by the peoples of the world due to its aggression against Nicaragua is the fact that Nicaragua was elected to the Security Council by the majority of the countries of the world. It was supported by 104 countries, despite the campaign that the United States launched against us. This is a clear demonstration of repudiation of the U.S. attitude, position and policy toward Nicaragua. That is what we achieved at the international level with our charges. However, the rejection of those aggressions and the real defense against the aggressions will depend on our domestic measures, our military defense, our militias, our production, etc. That is truly the real situation. [passage omitted]

CSO: 3248/421

CENTRAL BANK CHAIRMAN ON FOREIGN DEBT

PY222053 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 15 Dec 82 p 11

[Text] In a book entitled "Foreign Debt and Solvency," issued by the Central Bank, Central Bank President Dr Cesar Romeo Acosta states that the per capita foreign debt of our country is \$459.

The book describes the historical evolution of our country's foreign debt, noting that while in 1977 Paraguay's "per capita" foreign debt was \$230, in 1982, after a 99 percent increase, the per capita indebtedness level reached \$459.

Dr Acosta also explains that during the same period the gross national product [GNP] grew by 135 percent, jumping from \$747 million to \$1,759,000,000. He then points out that "the GNP growth is, by itself, clear proof of Paraguay's solvency."

The Central Bank president contends that "our country has followed a prudent policy in contracting loans, since most of them were provided by international official institutions and foreign governments. Therefore, international agencies regard the structure of our foreign debt as one of the healthiest in Latin America, taking into account that this sound structure has allowed the Paraguayan Government to punctually meet its foreign debt service obligations."

De Acosta also explains that the foreign debt has been growing since 1970. "In fact," he notes, "in 1982 our foreign debt will be \$1,150,000,000, including the new loans contracted by the government, while in 1970 it was \$152.4 million." In this regard, the author indicates that new loans of \$95,200,000 were contracted during the first half of this year and that, as of 30 June 1982, there were \$637 million in approved loans which had not been used yet. "Using that money in the coming years," Acosta contends, "will cause the foreign debt balance to grow, increasing also the corresponding financial charges."

According to the author's estimates, our foreign debt may reach \$1,747,000,000 in 1986, including the private sector's debt--amounting to \$174 million in 1982--which has no official guarantee and which accounts for 16 percent of the total debt. Short-term obligations for \$326 million must also be met by the private sector.

The book also indicates that foreign debt amortization and interest have also grown from \$14.3 million in 1970 to \$130 million in 1982. "It is estimated," Acosta explains, "that payments on principal and interest will grow by 20 percent in 1983, reaching \$156 million."

"The foreign debt burden on the balance of payments," he goes on, "will be growing steadily. Foreign debt servicing will require \$187 million and \$247 million in 1984 and 1986 respectively."

The Central Bank president explains that the foreign debt/exports ratio grew from 22.1 percent in 1970 to 39.5 percent in 1982.

Acosta then notes that "prospects indicate that the foreign debt will grow steadily. Therefore, export income should rise at a minimum 20 percent annual rate in order to service the debt."

CSO: 3348/172

BRIEFS

FISCAL DEFICIT--According to the latest issue of the statistical bulletin of the Paraguayan Central Bank, the fiscal deficit for the first 10 months of this year amounts to 5,351,500,000 guaranies. Only the agriculture and livestock and the justice and labor ministries reduced their expenditures in October while all other ministries increased theirs. Revenues amounted to 54,328,100,000 while expenditures totaled 59,679,600,000. [PY122038 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 10 Dec 82 p 13]

COST OF LIVING--Central Bank President Cesar Romeo Acosta has told ULTIMA HORA that the cost of living increased by 1.1 percent in November and by 5.2 percent during January-November 1982. Romeo Acosta also reported that the Central Bank granted credits for a total amount of 25,291,800,000 guaranies during January-October 1982, as compared to 18,479,900,000 guaranies during the same period in 1981. [PY252240 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 18 Dec 82 p 8]

PETROPAR OPENS NEW BRANCH--Buenos Aires, 20 Dec--Paraguayan Industry Minister Delfin Ugarte Centurion officially dedicated a commercial and investment office of PETROPAR [Paraguayan Petroleum Corporation] in Buenos Aires on 20 December. [PY252240 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 21 Dec 82 p 10]

IDB GRANTS LOANS--The IDB has announced that two loans amounting to \$24 million have been granted to Paraguay in order to finance the extension of powerlines which will benefit some 17,100 residents. [PY122038 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 4 Dec 82 p 8]

CSO: ' 3348/172

BRIEFS

IDB GRANTS LOAN--The IDB has approved two loans totalling \$33 million to finance the fourth stage of the water and sewage program which will benefit 315,000 people throughout the country. The first loan is payable in 30 years with a grace period of 7 and 1/2 years, while the second loan is payable in 20 years with a grace period of 4 and 1/2 years. [Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 10 Dec 82 p A3]

GUANO EXPORTS RESUMED--A Belgian enterprise will buy 2,000 tons of guano from the Pesca-Peru Company, for a total of approximately \$400,000. [Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 6 Dec 82 p A-12]

SPECIAL DRAWING RIGHTS GRANTED--The IMF has approved the third disbursement corresponding to a loan granted to Peru in 1982. The disbursement covers 40 million in special drawing rights, which are equivalent to approximately \$45 million. [Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 9 Dec 82 p 27]

CHARGES AGAINST FORMER MINISTER--Lima, 14 Dec (LATIN-REUTER)--The Senate has agreed to file charges before a court against Gen (ret) Fernando Miro Quesada, former health minister during the military regime, for malfeasance and crimes committed against state property. A legislative pretrial hearing found there was sufficient cause to try Miro Quesada because of an unfulfilled contract with an Italian firm for the construction of a network of rural hospitals, causing the loss of \$60 million. [Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0406 GMT 15 Dec 82]

INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION FOR DEFENSE--Lima, 17 Dec (AFP)--The Peruvian Government created in Lima today the Commission for Concerted Industrial Action for Defense (CONCIDE) [Comision de Concertacion Industrial Para la Defensa], which will be charged with adjusting national industry to defense requirements and preparing it for mobilization in case of an emergency. CONCIDE will be presided over by the deputy minister of industries and made up of representatives of the war, navy, aeronautics, economy and interior ministries, of the National Defense Secretariat, of the Armed Forces Joint Command and of the Industrial Association. [PY252045 Paris AFP in Spanish 2242 GMT 17 Dec 82]

CSO: 3348/171

PDP, NEW NEVIS PARTY OF HOBSON, ASSESSED, ASSAILED

Hobson Letter

Basseterre THE DEMOCRAT in English 27 Nov 82 p 6

[A Recent "Letter" by Ted Hobson, President Of The People's Democratic Party, Published In THE LABOUR SPOKESMAN 15th September, 1979: "Lest We Forget"]

[Text] 6th September, 1979

The Editor,
The Labour Spokesman,
Church Street,
BASSETERRE.

Dear Sir,

Kindly permit me space in your valuable column to publish another of my "letters" - this time to comment on the recent "Constitutional Rap Sessions" between the State's Government and the people of Nevis.

Although I now spend most of my time in St. Kitts, I am a Nevisian who loves my country intensely. I claim to feel the frustration and recognise the neglect experienced by all Nevisians. I, therefore, understand the rallying cry of "Secession" postulated by many of my countrymen. However, at this stage I interpret that cry as a dramatic call to the State's Government to take note and remedy the grievances of the people of Nevis both materially and constitutionally - in short, the people of Nevis would like more power over their affairs and more help by the Government to help develop their island.

It is my view that many of these difficulties should have been recognised and attended to, in a meaningful way, a long time ago. It is therefore, to the eternal credit of our new Premier, the Hon. Lee L. Moore, that shortly after he assumed the position as Head of Government he set these 'rap sessions' in motion, first, with the political leaders of Nevis and then with the people themselves.

The matter has now taken on added importance and urgency since the meeting on 8th August, 1979 in Antigua between the British Minister of State for Foreign

& Commonwealth Affairs. Hon. Nicholas Ridley and delegations both from the Government and the Nevis Reformation Party (NRP) where the question of Independence for the State and the claim by the NRP for secession were discussed. It was apparently made abundantly clear to both delegations that the British Government is anxious for the State to move to Independence in the shortest possible time. Further, that they would not be prepared to take Nevis as a dependency. In a sense the matter was thrown back into our "court" for solution as to whether we move to Independence together or go our separate ways. These Rap Sessions with the people of Nevis have therefore now become crucial and it is my belief that the majority of Nevisians are interested in the discussions taking place with Government.

I was privileged to attend the meeting in Gingerland, Nevis on Tuesday evening 21st August, 1979, and was impressed with the large crowd on hand although it had been raining at about the time that the meeting was scheduled to start. The meeting was addressed by the Premier who explained the reason for the session and commented at length on the question of Independence for the State and the proposal by the NRP for secession for Nevis. After his address he invited questions and comments from the audience which, for the most part, dealt with the grievances of Nevisians such as the inadequacy of the water and electricity supply, unemployment and the lack of development of the island.

My sincere impression is that the Government is earnestly seeking a solution of the problem and it is equally clear that Nevisians by their attendance and participation in these sessions are concerned about the future of their island and anxious to hear what the Government has to say. As I have indicated earlier I have interpreted the call for "Secession" in Nevis as a cry of discontent and dissatisfaction, but to those who may be seriously contemplating a complete break between the two islands I would urge them to consider the deep roots running between the islands. It is estimated that over 1/4 of the people living in St. Kitts are Nevisians and a sizeable proportion of the rest have family roots in Nevis. Another consideration is the immense cost of running two administrations so close to one another. In so far as Nevis is concerned the cost would be unbearable. The expertise to underpin an Independent administration does not exist and the infra-structural services are limited. The taxation to finance the essential services and the other business of Government would be burdensome and may well cause much more discontent than now exists. This point has become more acute since the British Government has stated that Nevis would not be granted aid if its people chose to secede.

I know that many of the ardent supporters of secession believe that North Americans would come to their assistance. However, my experience has been that when outsiders come to a small island they invariably come to enrich themselves not to assist the island. Such a country who would depend entirely on the help of outsiders is extremely vulnerable and would be in no position to lay down conditions. Further, no country could base its existence on the possible help of outsiders.

All over the world, even independent countries are constructing mechanism for working together in the interest of their people. We in this State are

already together, surfely we can devise some constitutional formula for pre-serving what we have and at the same time protecting the special interests of the people of Nevis. It is my wish that the leaders of Nevis and the State's Government can come together and work out a fair solution of the problem. They owe it to the people.

Much of what I have written here I have discussed with a number of the leaders of the NRP with whom I have a relatively good relationship.

Yours

TED. L. HOBSON

'DEMOCRAT' Criticism

Basseterre THE DEMOCRAT in English 27 Nov 82 p 2

[Editorial: "Scraping the Barrel"]

[Text] Listeners to Radio Antilles last week Thursday must have been surprised and confused over a news announcement on that Station about the forming of a new Political Party in Nevis by Mr. Theodore Hobson.

According to the report, Mr. Hobson is naming his Party the People's Democratic Party, and he is "President" of it. Up to the time of going to Press, it is not clear who are the other members of Mr. Hobson's Party Executive. Indeed, Mr. Hobson claimed that his Party Executive contained ten (10) Members, but he said he could not name any of them yet.

This is what surprised many of the listeners to this item of news. Here was a whole new Political Party being announced over BIG "A" to the whole Caribbean, and the self-styled "President" unable to reveal the names of his Comrades in arms.

Mr. Hobson did hint that his well-concealed Executive consisted of N.R.P. defectors and malcontents, and it is confusing that such a scoop would be suppressed at the time of going public.

Mr. Hobson said that the reason why he has formed a Party in Nevis is that the N.R.P. does not have a mandate to take Nevis into Independence with St. Kitts. The mandate of N.R.P., said Mr. Hobson, is for secession. In a recent letter written by Mr. Hobson to The Labour Spokesman, however, he pleaded masterfully in favour of a constitutional formula for preserving the State intact. We have reprinted that letter in this issue.

Informed observers have concluded that Mr. Hobson is LABOUR MAN in PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC PARTY clothing. It is well-known that Mr. Hobson is a close friend of Labour Misleader Lee Moore, whom Mr. Hobson regards as his mentor and his confidant.

A glance at the recent letter to The Labour Spokesman written when Lee Moore was Premier confirms his fawning admiration of Moore beyond any doubt whatever.

Lee Moore is really scraping the bottom of the barrel, though, to push Ted Hobson into the merciless political arena of this State. If his launching of his Party is anything to go by, Mr. Hobson, with all due respect, does not have what it takes.

Labour Party Split

Basseterre THE DEMOCRAT in English 27 Nov 82 p 11

[Article by Gerald Llewellyn Powell]

[Text]

For the past two months, I have been hearing that a new Political Party will be launched in St. Kitts in the New Year.

Now that a new Political Party has surfaced in Nevis, and looking at its leadership, I can only say - "Birds of a feather, flock together".

For months now things have been growing steadily worse for the Labour Party. There is a faction in that party that has been arguing that the present Labour Party Leader has grown too reckless and makes too many mistakes and irresponsible statements.

This faction is ready to split from the Labour Party unless the leadership is changed quickly.

The name of this new party to be formed will be very interesting.

Many people are saying that they will like to see three or four political parties in St. Kitts and I am in agreement with them. Because, when the times comes and a party fails to accomplish its electoral pledges, there will be two or three other parties from which to choose.

If the Labour Party does not change its leader soon I believe that the split is inevitable. We saw what happened in Dominica and St. Lucia. The losing parties in those countries became overly arrogant and atrocious and that is exactly what happened to the leader of the Labour Party in St. Kitts after the

electorate reduced
his POWER to POW.

At the last Conference of the St. Kitts-Nevis Trades and Labour Union held at Masses House last month, it was reported that Lee Moore is the President of that Union.

Will Lee Moore step down from the leadership of the Labour Party now that he is President of the Union? Or will he be wearing two hats again?

By now even Lee Moore should have learnt that he cannot hold fire and water in one hand. But some people never learn.

I now ask the question that so many people have been asking - "When will the Labour Party hold its Convention?"

CSO: 3298/213

ANALYSIS OF POLITICAL PARTIES, CURRENT MANEUVERS

Port-of-Spain SUNDAY GUARDIAN in English 28 Nov 82 p 26

[Article by Nora Peacock]

[Text]

ST. VINCENT and the Grenadines' ninth political party was launched recently. The highest estimate given for size of local population is 120,000. The last census figures are not available.

Of course far from all of the parties are functioning as such. In some, one man's voice is heard from time to time. It is true to say that two of the groups have never become operable as political machines. I refer to Calder Williams's Working People's Party and Randolph Russell's Progressive Democratic Party. Kenneth John and Parnel Campbell's People's Democratic Movement has been drugged into a sleep that appears to have developed into permanent coma. The People's Political Party, started by veteran Ebenezer Joshua some 30 years ago, has passed out, to all intents and purposes, with the takeover of the old man by A.D. Dr. Gideon Cordice's new St. Vincent and the Grenadines National Movement has got off to a good start and certainly has a place among the viable political parties. James Mitchell's New Democratic Party, the United People's Party of Oscar Allen and Renwick Rose, and Milton Cato's ruling St. Vincent Labour Party are well established organisations with years (in the case of the Labour Party decades) of political activity behind them.

Party number nine is a breakaway from the UPM, whose erstwhile political leader, Dr. Ralph Gonsalves, has founded it. Gonsalves has called his new party the Movement for National Unity. It is based on himself as leader and Caspar London, another UPM foundation member, and some new blood, the best known among whom is Cecil "Blazer" Williams, an economist and playwright whom I featured in an earlier article.

CONVICTION

Gonsalves's major aim is to develop a "broad-based" movement in the country which will result in the defeat of the St. Vincent Labour Party at the polls. The men named so far as party founders certainly suggest the accomplishment of a broad ethnic and

functional range. Barrister-at-law Gonsalves has with him, besides Williams and unionist London, agricultural scientist, Clive Bishop, social worker Cyp Nehall and businessman — farmer Julian Boyea. One of its characteristics is the opening of its membership to persons from 14 years up. As a mother, though no longer of teenagers, I can't support that part of the broad-based movement.

Gonsalves's renunciation of Marxist-Leninist policies has been interpreted by many as part of his programme to allay the communism fears that continue to persist in St. Vincent. It is my personal conviction that any party that links up with one that carries a "communist taint" is sounding its own death knell. It happened to the PDM in the last elections. Its link with Yulimo to

form UPM, in my humble opinion, cost it many a vote.

SCARED

The alliance also paid off for Cato and lost votes for Mitchell. The electorate grew scared of the increase in "communist" strength brought about by what looked like Yulimo's takeover of the John Campbell group and determined not to split the anti-communist vote. As Cato was considered stronger than Mitchell, many people, though favouring a change, decided to stick with the Labour Party.

As I see it, a viable opposition cannot include either the UPM or Gonsalves's new MNU. Any party that joins with either will lose votes. Rightly or wrongly, both Ralph Gonsalves and Renwick Rose (the UPM general secretary), either together or individually, are too closely linked with communism in Vincentian's minds to shake off the stigma with words. In any case, although they may condemn the "besmirching" of their socialist doctrines with accusations of "Marxist-Leninist," they align themselves so consistently with anything

Grenadian, Cuban or Soviet, and abhor so obviously anything promulgated by the

United States in particular and the West in general, that their statements reek of insincerity.

I am certain that alignment with either Gonsalves or Rose at this stage will spell election doom for the party concerned. In the St. Vincent Labour Party is to be unseated or a strong opposition presented in Parliament the unity will have to be supplied by Mitchell and Cordice.

NEW IDEAS

At the moment there are no signs of a "meeting of minds" between the NDP and SNM. But I cannot see much hope of changing the political situation and initiating new ideas for development and social and economic progress if they continue their separate ways and fight each other at the polls.

It looks as if a battle is on between politics and statesmanship. Which will win is anybody's guess. In this area the leaders of the parties-in-name-but-not-fact may have a decision to take. Where should their straggling membership cast their votes? Such decisions might have important repercussions.

FOCUS ON LACK OF PLANTING AS AGRICULTURAL PROBLEM

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 10 Dec 82 p 21

[Text]

KINGSTOWN, St. Vincent
Dec. 8 (CANA):

A prominent private sector marketer of farm produce here has identified lack of planting as the key problem facing the St. Vincent agricultural sector.

Marcus De Freitas, managing director of Eastern Caribbean Agencies (ECA), a local company that markets farm produce overseas, addressed more than 100 farmers and inter-island traders here.

Mr. De Freitas said local farmers planted without knowledge of market conditions and ignorant of what must be done to maintain a proper pricing structure.

Farmers, he said, must be educated about when to grow what crops in order to maximise their benefits and avoid an oversupply situation as happened on the Trinidad market two weeks ago.

"For instance, at this time, there is a lot of eddoes and sweet potatoes, there is not enough yams, there is not enough sweet peppers, there is not enough sorrel, just to name a few", Mr. De Freitas said.

Mr. De Freitas recommended the formation here of an umbrella organization, an agricultural society perhaps, to which all farmer could become affiliated.

He suggested that the proposed society could be sub-divided into smaller bodies of tree crop growers, fruit crop growers and livestock farmers, and could be the vehicle for co-ordinating the activities of farmers, agricultural traders, shippers and overseas markets.

Mr. De Freitas felt that such a system would go a long way in establishing an efficient agricultural sector in St. Vincent.

But he warned, that no matter how organized an efficient such a system was, the farmers and exporters would have to pay particular attention to handling and packing of produce, and that there would have to be proper refrigerated storage facilities in the island for agricultural produce.

Mr. De Freitas disclosed that his company, was already looking into the question of shipping, another problem affecting the agricultural sector.

SLP FACTION MEETING UNDERSCORES CRACKS IN OPPOSITION

Castries THE WEEKEND VOICE in English 4 Dec 82 p 3

[Text]

THE old problems of dissension and verbal warfare within the opposition St. Lucia Labour Party (SLP) has surfaced again with one faction announcing that it was holding "the party's annual conference tomorrow."

A faction of the SLP met last August and elected parliamentarian Cecil Lay as its new leader.

The other faction, led by Leader of the Parliamentary Opposition Neville Cenac accused Lay and his supporters of "political piracy" in holding an "Unauthorized convention."

Lay has since called on Governor General Boswell Williams to terminate Cenac's appointment as opposition leader. But so far no such action has been taken.

Cenac, in a signed statement this week, said that the majority of the party's Central Executive had sanctioned tomorrow's conference to be held in his constituency of Laborie-Saltibus.

He said that notices had been served on every member of the Central Executive including Lay and former Party Leader Peter Josie, who is siding Lay, as

well as "others who have participated in conferences and conventions which did not have a quorum..."

Cenac likened what he said were attempts to wrest the leadership of the SLP to Libyan Colonel Quaddafi's recent abortive attempt to secure a quorum from among African Heads of States for a summit conference of the Organisation African Unity (OAU).

Said Cenac: "The St. Lucia Labour party, plagued by similar renegade politics, will not be overtaken by a question of survival. Sunday's convention will demonstrate that the party has been compromised in the past due to perverse exploitation of the provisions of the SLP constitution and rules."

He added that at the convention resolutions would be presented to safeguard the party from further organisational and leadership problems.

The new provisions, Cenac said, would make a qualitative assessment of the Party and its leadership and devise new instruments to secure the most flexible, liberal and democratic party structures.

Cenac said the convention was a working session or reorganisation and policy determinations to present St. Lucians with a realistic perspective of national development.

Tomorrow's conference was first promised by Cenac in September after the Lay - Josie faction held two big conferences in what was said to be efforts to reorganise the SLP in the wake of its recent stormy shortened five-year term of office and its disastrous defeat in general elections last May.

The Lay - Josie faction has also announced its intention to appoint a commission to inquire into the circumstances leading to the SLP's fall from power last January, when public pressure forced the resignation of Prime Minister Winston Cenac's administration.

CSO: 3298/212

BRIEFS

FIRST BANANA CO-OP--ST. LUCIA'S first banana cooperative, the La Croix Maingot Farmers Cooperative, received its official seal of registration from the Registrar of Cooperatives on Tuesday. The seal was handed over to the group's chairman Mr. Guy Prescod, at a special meeting of the organization, by Mr. John Wilson, a senior official of the Cooperatives Department. Banana growers in the La Croix Maingot area have been trying for several years now to obtain funds to establish a communal boxing plant, but within the past eight months they had decided to form a cooperative initially to process and market their own fruit. The move follows recent efforts by the board of directors of the St. Lucia Banana Growers Association to have as many growers and groups of growers as possible to process their own fruit. The farmers were assisted in their efforts by S.L.B.G.A. Growers Relations Officer Rupert Brandford, and Mr. Wilson, who were instrumental in getting the organisation get underway. The growers have already started construction of their own boxing facility on a communal basis, and it is anticipated that this should be ready to commence operations by mid December. The formal launching of the Cooperative is expected to take place on December 13. A member of the cooperative has disclosed that the processing of bananas and marketing of the fruit is only the first step towards expansion of activities to include all aspects of agricultural development in the area. [Castries THE WEEKEND VOICE in English 4 Dec 82 p 21]

FILM, UNIFORM BAN--CASTRIES, St. Lucia, Dec. 3 (CANA)--The St. Lucia Parliament last night passed legislation barring civilians from wearing military-type apparel and making it illegal for movies to be shown publicly without prior police permission. Prime Minister John Compton told the debate that his government was enforcing the measures to safeguard the country against what it sees as a threat to public safety and the island's democratic system. Compton charged that young St. Lucians were being trained here in warfare and that films were being shown to the public on how to stage successful coups d'etat and revolutions. He did not say who were responsible for these activities. "We have to rebuild this country, but not on bullets. Bullets cannot plant bananas and no videos are shown on how to plant bananas but how to fire bullets," the Prime Minister said, adding. "They show nothing educational or socially redeeming. But we see films on revolutionar, tactics. Should a responsible government sit aside and allow these developments to continue?" [Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 4 Dec 82 p 11]

TOBAGO HOUSE OPENS DEBATE ON SECESSION, THEN ADJOURNS

Independence Motion

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 24 Nov 82 p 1

[Article by Ed Wynn Brant]

[Text]

THE TOBAGO House of Assembly (THA) is to debate tomorrow a motion to determine whether the island should terminate the present union with Trinidad or to seek full independence.

All 15 members in the THA — 12 assemblymen and three councillors — have been notified of the motion to be debated at the statutory meeting starting at 2.45 p.m.

The THA is ruled by the Democratic Action Congress (DAC) with its eight assemblymen against four from the People's National Movement (PNM).

Tobagonians have given the DAC a mandate to sever links with the Central Government and seek full independence for the 116 square mile island.

The motion reads in part: All proper steps necessary to terminate the present unjust union of Tobago with Trinidad and to secure either its replacement with a union acceptable to the people of Tobago, or to seek full independence of Tobago with secure territorial boundaries.

This is the main motion for debate tomorrow, Deputy Chairman of the THA, Dr. Jeff Davidson, said yesterday.

He said the motion culminates two years of frustration to the DAC-ruled THA.

Two months ago, the DAC endorsed a motion authorising the THA to have a matter determined in court on the functions and respon-

sibilities of the THA.

No date has been fixed for a hearing which is to take place in Port-of-Spain.

STAFF PROBLEM

An area of disenchantment, Dr. Davidson said, was adequate staffing for the THA. A planning division and fisheries division to be established under the Tobago House of Assembly Act of 1980 were still grounded because of lack of staff.

The Deputy Chairman envisaged that the THA needed at least 100 more qualified personnel from clerks, paymasters, to economists and planners to administrate the island.

Dr. Davidson felt that the bottleneck in granting full power to Tobago as spelled out in the Act is hinged on the administration from the Central Government.

In the past, the THA had running battles with Mr. Patrick Manning and now with Senator Anthony Jaccelon who is responsible for Tobago affairs.

Dr. Davidson said the Central Government is putting all sorts of interpretations to the THA Act, hence the need to get a court ruling.

"For a start, we could go back to the Seemungal draft which was thrown out by the PNM," Dr. Davidson said.

That draft would have provided greater autonomy for the island but was rejected in toto by the ruling PNM in the House of Representatives.

"Tobago could only administer itself if the administration is placed in the lap of the THA," the Deputy Chairman said.

He believed that with the full support of the 40,000 people on the tourist haven, independence could not be far off.

Budget for 1983

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 24 Nov 82 p 1

[Text]

THE CHAIRMAN of the Tobago House of Assembly (THA) is to discuss with the Minister of Finance, Mr. George Chambers its \$546 million budget for 1983 next week.

Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Mr. Chambers was invited to hold talks with the THA today on the budget but he was unable to attend.

Deputy Chairman of the THA, Dr. Jeff Davidson said greater emphasis would be placed on the public utilities in 1983.

Of the \$432 million allocated for development projects \$276.4 million will be for developing airport, seaport, telephone, water and sewerage, national transport, electricity, roads, bridges and buildings.

In its draft estimates for 1983, the THA has allocated \$114.8 million for recurrent expenditure.

Overall development projects include agriculture, forestry and fisheries — \$19.3 million; education, sports, culture and community development — \$26.6 million; health and environment — \$20.9 million; marketing — \$6 million; social services — \$3 million; finance planning and development — \$25.5 million; and infrastructure, roads and buildings — \$276.4 million.

The THA gave no indication

on how it plans to raise the money but Dr. Davidson said that will become part of the national budget.

The 1983 budget represents a leap of 55.1 per cent over this year's budget. Dr. Davidson was optimistic that the Minister of Finance will allow all the capital funds for the island's development.

The 1982 budget was \$301.4 million of which \$212 went toward development projects and \$89.4 million for recurrent expenditure.

Dr. Davidson said that Prime Minister Chambers, in his capacity of Minister of Finance, was expected in Tobago today to discuss the 1983 budget for Tobago but is busy with matters of State and is likely to be in Scarborough next Wednesday.

He said the 1983 budget, was prepared last May and was presented to the Ministry of Finance for incorporation in the national budget.

The Deputy Chairman felt that the Finance Ministry granted most of 1982 draft budget put forward by the THA and they were looking forward to the same thing this year.

He said Mr. Chambers held talks with the THA shortly before the national budget for 1982 was presented last January.

Tobago PNM Motion

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 25 Nov 82 p 1

[Article by John Babb]

[Text] THE TOBAGO House of Assembly, apart from an independence motion, also has on its agenda for debate today a motion seeking the establishment of appropriate consultative machinery for the smoother resolution of difficulties that may develop from time to time in administering the House of Assembly Act.

The motion, dated October 28, is down on the agenda in the name of Mr. Stanford Callender--the member for Whim/Plymouth and one of People's National Movement's (PNM) four assemblymen in the House.

However, much attention is expected to be given the motion to determine whether or not Tobago should end its present union with Trinidad and seek full independence.

This motion is in the name of the Deputy Chairman of the Assembly, Dr. Jeff Davidson--a member of the majority Democratic Action Congress (DAC) which has control of the Assembly.

The motion by PNM Assemblyman Callendar reads:

"WHEREAS: The unitary State of Trinidad and Tobago comprises the island of Tobago and the island of Trinidad;

"The said unitary State of Trinidad and Tobago enjoys the status of a sovereign independent Republic, so that no part of it is subject to any suzerain power or authority in relation to domestic or external affairs;

"It is in the interest of all the people of Trinidad and Tobago, whether resident in Tobago or resident in Trinidad, that each and every part of the country is properly administered;

"In recognition of a geographical and other special circumstances of Tobago, the Tobago House of Assembly Act, 1980 provided a legislative framework to enable better provision to be made for the administration of Tobago;

Unique Measure

"The said Tobago House of Assembly Act in fact represents a unique constitutional measure that provides for the substantial devolution of certain powers and authorities within the framework of the democratic unitary State of Trinidad and Tobago;

"The uniqueness of the measure must tend to give rise to misunderstanding in the early stages of its operation;

"Further, the very uniqueness of the measure would suggest the need for continuing discussion and consultation, or any other appropriate action which should in no way impair the integrity and stability of the unitary State of Trinidad and Tobago, in all efforts to resolve such misunderstandings;

"BE IT RESOLVED that--The Tobago House of Assembly request and the Government of Trinidad and Tobago to consider the desirability of establishing appropriate consultative machinery for the smoother resolution of any difficulties which may arise from time to time in the administration of the Tobago House of Assembly Act."

A House of Assembly source explained yesterday that following the DAC convention when DAC members of the Assembly first raised their motion about independence, the PNM members got together and produced their resolution.

Just at that time private talks were being held between Prime Minister George Chambers and the Chairman of the Tobago House of Assembly, Mr. A. N. R. Robinson.

As a result, both sides placed their motions in cold storage waiting the see what course of events would develop.

Now that the DAC has resurrected its motion on independence, the source explained, the PNM members also felt it necessary for them to pursue with their motion.

Highlights of Debate

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 27 Nov 82 p 3

[Text]

SCARBOROUGH:
A.N.R. ROBINSON, chairman of the Tobago House of Assembly, has denied that he is engaged in talks with the Prime Minister Mr George Chambers.

Mr Robinson made the denial in response to a statement made by Assemblyman Wisnton Denoon (PNM) during his contribution to the debate on a motion for "a just and acceptable union between Trinidad and Tobago."

Mr Denoon said: "Mr Chairman, I find it a bit

ironic now that at this time, when the Prime Minister and yourself are engaged in talks concerning the assembly, with a view of finding early solutions to problems which have cropped up from time to time...

That was as far as he got before Mr Robinson interrupted saying:

"Mr Denoon I am sorry to interrupt you. The Prime Minister and I are not engaged in talks."

"Well" said Mr Denoon, "this is the information I got."

He continued to make his contribution to the debate although complaining at times about interruptions from the public gallery.

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 29 Nov 82 p 8

[Editorial]

[Text]

LIKE most citizens of Trinidad and Tobago we must confess to being mystified by the behaviour of the Tobago House of Assembly. It has begun debate on a two-month old motion asking for the House to take all proper and necessary steps to terminate the present "unjust" union with Trinidad and to secure either its replacement with a union based on terms and conditions representative of the people of Tobago or the full independence of Tobago with secure territorial boundaries.

We consider the motion both irrational and out of place. Indeed, we are surprised that a legal person like Mr. A.N.R. Robinson, the chairman of the House, has allowed matters to proceed to actual debate.

SELF GOVERNMENT

The history of the dissatisfaction of Tobagonians with what seemed to them to be high-handedness on the part of the Central Government will show that agitation brought about the passage of a special law for the local government of Tobago.

Before that occurred Mr. Robinson had been at pains to point out that, unlike his Parliamentary colleague Dr. Winston Murray, he was not advocating secession but self-government.

Quarrels ensuing between the House and Ministers representing the Government over the functions of the House and its Budget have been protracted but have never appeared to be unsolvable.

Most recently, Prime Minister Chambers in his offer of reconciliation reported that he was having amicable and private talks with Mr. Robinson.

Many people hailed this with evident relief, and although the

announcement followed an earlier DAC meeting at which a motion supporting secession was actually passed, there was a general feeling that wisdom and good sense between these two leaders would eventually prevail.

There has been no public expression from Mr. Robinson that the Prime Minister's announcement was premature or in error and, consequently, we wonder what precisely is now operating in Mr. Robinson's mind.

Dr. Davidson, in whose name the motion was filed, must know of the talks between Mr. Robinson and the Prime Minister and Mr. Robinson must have been in some position to ask Dr. Davidson to withdraw the motion or to ask for postponement of its hearing in the light of the discussions with the Prime Minister.

But the whole thing is not only a matter of taste, reason is also insulted.

We do not know who has given Tobago the idea that Tobago possesses by itself the resources necessary for complete independence which would appear to be Dr. Davidson's true intention, however much he may rationalise matters.

Independence for comparable tiny economies in the Caribbean and elsewhere has proved to be a bitter benefit and we do not think that Tobago will encounter any different experience from that of other mini-states.

We go further. Any suggestion that Tobago should secede cannot be debated and decided upon solely by Tobagonians or their House of Assembly. In this respect Tobago is no different from Caroni or St. Patrick and ought not to be allowed to think so

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 30 Nov 82 p 6

[Text]

DEBATE in the Tobago House of Assembly on relationships with Trinidad has been adjourned to a date to be fixed. After lengthy discussions, the adjournment was taken at 9.00 o'clock on Thursday night.

The motion, by the Assembly's Deputy Chairman, Dr Jeff Davidson (DAC), calls for a "just and acceptable union" between Trinidad and Tobago.

The public gallery at the Tobago Hall of Justice was unusually crowded for the debate. Many expected a strong call for secession.

Dr. Davidson said in presenting the motion. The Tobago House of Assembly should take all proper and necessary steps to terminate the present unjust union of Tobago with Trinidad and to secure either its replacement with a union based on terms and conditions acceptable to the authorised representatives of the people of Tobago or full independence of Tobago with secure territorial boundaries.

SIGNAL HILL

Convinced that the motion was calling for the break-up of the unitary State of Trinidad and Tobago, the PNM Opposition in the DAC-controlled House of Assembly urged caution.

"What do you really want?" asked Assemblyman William Mc Kenzie. "If we have been together for so many years, I don't see why we can't continue as one country... just the two of us," urged Assemblyman Winston Denoon.

The sitting got underway at about 3 p.m. and it was 9 p.m. when the adjournment was called.

Early in the sitting, condolence was extended to Assemblyman Edwin Caesar on the death of his brother. A motion to accept the report of the 34th meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee was passed.

The House also paid tribute to the 1982 football Inter-col champions, Signal Hill Senior Comprehensive School, whose Principal, Coach Manager and players were present by special invitation.

As justification for his call for "a just and acceptable union between Trinidad and Tobago," Dr. Davidson scoffed at the historical account that Tobago was a ward of Trinidad before the Act of Union. He said that the Act of Union of 1898 stated clearly that "The Island of Tobago shall be a ward of Trinidad and Tobago."

He said there was an early proviso that if the union proved unsatisfactory... if Trinidad did not meet its moral obligations and if benefits did not accrue to Tobago... then Tobago should revert to its original independence status.

Dr Davidson charged that the Central Government

was insensitive to the cries from Tobago.

In support of Dr. Davidson, Assemblyman Hochoy Charles asked: "Who will oppose a motion of this type?"

He said that while he believed in consultation, co-operation and magnanimity, he felt that the time would soon come for bloodshed.

He cited problems in productivity, water supply, roads — and evoked a chuckle from the Chairman when he mimicked a complaint about roads by Assemblyman Julien who was sitting opposite. He argued that all these things could be put right if the House of Assembly was given the power.

Assemblyman Charles also spoke of the breaking up of the Tobago family when truckers had to journey to San Fernando to buy lumber for projects.

Assemblyman Denoon (PNM) bemoaned talk about war and bloodshed.

In the final hour of the debate, Assemblyman Regis Caruth said that the historical truth of the matter was that the 1889 union between Trinidad and Tobago was not a product of adult franchise. He classified it as imperial impertinence.

PNM PREPARING FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS in 1983

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 29 Nov 82 p 1

[Text] WITH some measure of subtlety, the People's National Movement (PNM) will launch its election campaign early next year in preparation for the 1983 Local Government elections.

It will take the form of a political rally at Sangre Grande--the next outside venue carded for the first General Council meeting of the party in the new year.

This is being based on a decision of the last General Council meeting which was held at Gulf City, La Romain, in the south.

The party's chairman, Mr. Francis Prevatt, in consultation with the Prime Minister, who is the party's Political Leader, Mr. George Chambers, felt that future General Council meetings held outside Balisier House--party headquarters--will take the form of political activities in the constituency where the meeting is being held. Party members interpreted this to mean the holding of political rallies.

According to the PNM's Public Relations Officer, Mr. Horace Grant, it was originally decided to hold such outside meetings over a period of six months.

At the Gulf City meeting, the General Council approved two resolutions, the first of which expressed sincere appreciation and congratulations to the Political Leader, Mr. Chambers, and other members of the Trinidad and Tobago delegation to the recently concluded Caricom Summit in Jamaica, for their "magnificent contribution" at the talks.

Secondly, the General Council also recorded its appreciation and thanks to Deputy Political Leader, Mr. Kamaluddin Mohammed, who acted as Prime Minister during the absence of Mr. Chambers.

Mr. Mohammed, who is the Minister of Agriculture, Lands and Food Production, acted as Prime Minister from November 15 to 20.

CSO: 3298/214

STATE-OWNED CARONI MAKING CHANGES; UNION REACTS

Cut in Work Force

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 25 Nov 82 p 1

[Article by Mikey Mahabir]

[Text] STATE-OWNED Caroni (1975) Limited plans to reduce its cultivation work-force by 359 before the start of the 1983 crop and save \$5 million.

First, the company is considering reducing the regular workers--crane drivers, tractor drivers and through amalgamation of gangs--by 228. Then discussions would be held with the All Trinidad Sugar and General Workers Trade Union on the remaining 131 who are employed in the "old people's gang."

Yesterday, a senior official of the company said the aim of the programme is to make the company economically viable and if the plan goes into action, Caroni will be saving more than \$5 million next year.

He said Caroni is trying very hard to improve its efficiency by, firstly, amalgamating certain gangs in the cultivation section since there is a decline in labour.

The spokesman said that crane drivers will be offered alternative employment and if they refuse then they will be paid their severance benefits in accordance with the industrial agreement. The cultivation section employs more than 6,000 workers.

Opposition Leader, Rep. Basdeo Panday, who is president general of the All Trinidad Sugar Union, confirmed that he met with the company, but he criticised the plan to reduce the labour force.

Mr. Panday accused the company of "gross discrimination," particularly against the women employees many of whom, he claimed, are slated to go.

Mr. Panday, Mr. Nuevo Diaz, vice president, and Mr. Sam Maharaj, general secretary, represented the union at a meeting with the company while the company's team included Mr. Rennie Mohammed, personnel manager, and Mr. Ian Laurie, agricultural manager.

Commenting on the meeting, Mr. Panday said yesterday: "We believe that Government is going ahead with its plan to close down the industry. They are not telling the union in which direction the company is going."

He said that the company indicated that the crane drivers would be redeployed but the union believed that those workers would be retrenched since the company would be offering them work outside of their classification such as cutting and bundling canes.

Mr. Panday said the 1983 crop is just around the corner, but up to now the company has not informed the union of its direction for the future, despite several requests by the union for such information.

Deemphasis on Sugar

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 27 Nov 82 p 1

[Article by Mikey Mahabir]

[Text] SAN FERNANDO--STATE-OWNED Caroni Limited cannot survive as an exporter of sugar. This is the view of Minister of State Enterprises, Mr. Ronald Williams.

Speaking at the long service awards ceremony of the company on Thursday afternoon at the Carapichaima Senior Comprehensive School, Mr. Williams said:

"In planning the future of Caroni and in devising strategies for survival, be reality from which we must start is that Caroni cannot survive as an exporter of sugar. It costs us in Trinidad almost two and a half times more to make a ton of sugar than our Caricom partners."

The Minister said that Trinidad's cost of production of sugar is the highest in the world-over \$3,700 a ton; the guaranteed EEC price for export sugar is less than \$850 a ton; the world market price is even lower.

"I can appreciate the historical circumstances and events which created Caroni and the factors that have contributed to its present shape and form. But I also must appreciate, and I hope you also do, the changing circumstances and the need for imperative change."

The minister said that Caroni must change its form and shape and must transform the human and material resources which it has available into being a source of strength for the country's development.

Rice Production

He pointed out that two elements must be included in any programme of change: They are as follows:

--Caroni must grow, and must actively promote the growing of, more of the food which the nation requires;

--Caroni must improve its efficiency in all its operations.

He said he was aware that the Board has recently approved a major structural change in the company, creating two agricultural divisions, one for sugar cane and one for food production.

It has also strengthened its research capability to support its food growing effort.

The minister urged the company to proceed as rapidly as it can to expand rice production, the production of meat and milk, its Buffalypso herd and other food crops.

He said the nation's food import bill is rising much too rapidly and already the country is spending too large a proportion of its limited foreign exchange on paying for food which it can grow economically at home.

"But beyond this, there is a further imperative which must guide the nation's and Caroni's actions; the real possibility exists that it will become increasingly difficult to obtain an adequate supply of food from abroad."

Caroni must play a lead role in providing the country with a minimum of food security, he told the gathering.

Not to Worry

Mr. Williams assured that small farmers in the country had no cause for worry over food production at Caroni. The market was big enough to accommodate the largest feasible expansion in food production; and, besides Caroni, and the Food and Agriculture Corporation with which it was cooperating, were committed to doing a lot more on food processing and preservation.

He said Caroni must explore ways of improving the efficiency of its sugar operations.

On the harvesting side, it must deploy the decreasing number of cane cutters in a manner which would make the best use of its available equipment.

On the milling side, it must address the reality that the company expects to mill only 1.3 million tonnes of cane this year.

He said this was less than the amount required to keep Usine Ste Madeleine and Brechin Castle with a full supply of sugar.

The minister suggested that the board needed to look, with some urgency, into this question of its required milling capacity and in particular to examine the recommendations which the sugar rationalisation committee made with regard to Reform and Woodford Lodge.

He said the economic realities at home and abroad, and the prospects which lay ahead, left us with no option but to adapt, to produce more cheaply the goods

which we have traditionally made and to produce new goods for sale at home and abroad; this was the only way by which jobs could be created and income levels supported.

"But there is another side--the human side--which also must inform the necessary action which we take."

He felt that adequate attention must be given to minimise any hardships which may fall upon the people in the sugar belt who would inevitably be affected.

Resumption of Bagasse Operations

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 30 Nov 82 p 1

[Article by Clevon Raphael]

[Text] CARONI (1975) Limited is planning to reopen its ill-fated bagasse plant in 1983 as part of long-term moves to reverse the bad financial position of the State-owned company.

Investigations by the "Trinidad Guardian" also revealed that the company's ultimate aim is to have food production as its first line, replacing sugar manufacturing, the mainstay of the company which employs, 12,000-plus.

Company officials are reportedly waiting for the green light from Government to implement other proposals contained in the report of the Sugar Rationalisation Report which they feel would swing the fortunes of the State enterprise.

\$800 M Loss

Caroni has lost a staggering \$800 million since it was nationalised some years ago and the budgeted loss for 1983 is estimated to be \$163 million.

The figures do not relate to possible increases in salaries and wages due next year as the industrial agreement between the company and the unions expire at the end of next month.

Sources acquainted with the industry stress that for Caroni to remain alive drastic decisions must be taken and implemented without much delay.

One of the knowledgeable persons said yesterday:

"When it is taken into consideration that the combined total production from the four sugar factories amount to under 80,000 tons out of a production capacity of 200,000 tons the urgency of speedy remedial action is gleaned.

Individual Choice

"This situation is compounded when one also considers that it costs \$3,600 to produce one ton of the commodity against selling it on the EEC market at \$941 and on the free market at under \$500 a ton, the enormity of the problem cannot be underestimated."

Given those costs and other factors it was reported that in keeping with a question raised in official quarters the company was studying whether it should continue to produce for export or produce exclusively for local consumption.

Closure of the Woodford Lodge and Reform sugar factories is recommended in order to assist the company in becoming a viable entity. This and other proposals such as complete mechanisation of its sugar manufacturing operations would result in the amalgamation of work gangs.

In some cases it means that employees would be offered re-training in the direction being mapped out but whether the workers would agree to adjust to a new working environment would remain an individual choice.

Automation

With the closure of the two factories and full automation achieved there would be a surplus of 500-plus workers.

"These will have to decide whether they are prepared to work an eight-hour day shift as compared to the three or four hours now worked..."

It was stressed that the industry cannot continue to absorb the present work force without diversifying its production lines and in this regard food was chosen to perform the trick.

In addition to reactivating the bagasse plant which was closed down a few years ago because of the poor quality of its product, Caroni is also looking at tree crops, a rice project already in its pilot stage, expansion of its livestock herd.

A move designed to ensure increased productivity involves the establishment of a performance review committee where managers would be called upon on a regular basis to account for their output.

Penalties and rewards would be handed out accordingly.

It is also understood that the company is in the process of setting up an information systems department to be staffed by qualified persons nationals of Trinidad and Tobago and foreigners.

This section would handle the myriad computer operations of Caroni Limited.

One of the industry insiders replied when asked what she thought was responsible for the Government's apparent delay in implementing recommendations in the sugar report:

"Decisions which have serious political implications for Government are long in coming...this is only natural. But while Government is stalling on implementing recommendations such as closure of the two factories the company is incurring frightening costs.

"Government says it is looking at related proposals before taking positive action, but this I believe is a skilful measure adopted so as not to take any action in this matter..."

"After all, you must remember that opposition politicians represent workers in this industry..."

Caroni Limited was not embarking on any wholesale retrenchment, the source added.

Panday Criticism

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 30 Nov 82 p 3

[Text]

OPPOSITION
Leader, Rep. Basdeo Panday (Couva North) President General of all Trinidad Sugar and General Workers' Trade Union, has attacked State-owned Caroni (1975) Limited for approving major changes without consulting the union.

Mr. Panday was referring to a statement made by Minister of State Enterprises, Ronald Williams at the long service awards ceremony of the company last week.

Mr. Williams said that he was aware that the Caroni Board recently approved "a major structural change in the company, creating two agricultural divisions, one for sugar-cane and one for food production."

Mr. Panday said: "We find it to be extremely rude and stupid for the company to formulate plans and make changes without consulting the union."

"We have been talking about diversification for a very long time. The company has not informed the union about diversification of food production even up to this day, yet Prime Minister George Chambers keeps talking about production and co-operation and healing the wounds."

Mr. Panday said: "We know that the Government is afraid to tell us what their plans are for Caroni because they do not want to answer the question — what will happen to the

workers. The workers will be simply retrenched and thrown on the streets."

The sugar union leader said the company had embarked on a project to plant rice by air. "I hope they will reap by air or machine," he stated.

"But while Caroni is going ahead with its plan, the company is also retrenching workers. Caroni will never survive unless it could remove inefficiency and any or all forms of corruption wherever it exists."

He called on Government to investigate the contract awarded to a certain light aeroplane group working for the company as the contract was renewed annually without other airline companies having a change to bid for work.

Mr. Panday referred to what the Minister of State said regarding Trinidad's cost of production of sugar.

The Minister stated at the long services ceremony that it costs Trinidad almost two and half times more to make a ton of sugar than "our Caroni partners. Trinidad's cost of production of sugar is the highest in the world over \$3,700 per ton. The guaranteed EEC price for export sugar is less than \$850 per ton. The world market price is even lower."

Mr. Panday asked: What about the millions of dollars worth of machinery idle at Caroni? What about inefficiency?

Those were the major factors contributing to the high cost of production but the minister Made no mention of them, Mr. Panday added.

OWTU SEEKS HIGHER COLA FOR TTEC WORKERS IN TOBAGO

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 26 Nov 82 p 1

[Text]

THE Oilfields Workers' Trade Union (OWTU) yesterday outlined its proposal for a higher rate of cost of living allowance for its Tobago representatives at the Trinidad and Tobago Electricity Commission (TEEC) at the second day's hearing at the Industrial Court.

The union proposed that the workers in Trinidad receive an increase of 1.5 cents c.o.l.a. but their counterparts in Tobago should get two cents.

This argument was based on the allegation that the cost of living in Tobago is much higher than that in Trinidad.

But the Commission did not accept the union's argument and offered the same rate for employees on both islands.

According to the Commission its offer is based on the statistics compiled by the Central Statistical Office (C.S.O.) which has considered Tobago under its assessments of "special districts".

COSTS HIGHER

The Commission's personnel and industrial relations officer, Mr Ken Bailey, pointed out that the CSO's figures are probably so high because Tobago was included.

In earlier negotiations the

union had proposed higher wage rates for its Tobago representatives than the Trinidad TTEC employees but had removed this clause as a measure of compromise with the Commission.

Although parties have agreed on the c.o.l.a rate for Trinidad employees the Commission said it does not accept that Tobago employees should receive a higher allowances.

Outlining the union's case, Mr. Daniel, a TTEC Tobago employee stated, that food, clothing, medicine, transport and other items were much higher than here.

The Commission was represented by Mr. Bailey, Mr Andrew Hill, senior industrial relations officer Mr George Joseph, personnel officer and Mr. Patrick Rambath, industrial relations officer.

The union was led by Mr. Horace Noray, executive officer who was accompanied by president general George Weekes and a court full of TTEC employees representing different categories and branches of workers.

The matter was heard before the chairman of the Industrial Court's Essential Services Division, Mr Francis Corbie, Mr. Basil Douglas and Barrister Cynthia Riley-Haynes.

Hearing resumes at 9.30 a.m. today.

CSO: 3298/215

TELCO CHIEF SAYS NO EXPANSION WITHOUT RISE IN RATES

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 27 Nov 82 p 3

[Text]

THE EXECUTIVE Director of the Trinidad and Tobago Telephone Company, (Telco) Dr. Neilson Mackay, has said that Telco will be forced to curtail its massive expansion plans if it does not get the rate increase for which it has applied.

He also warned of the dangers of a protracted rate hearing, which, he noted, would further delay Telco from getting its financial house in order, a pre-requisite for obtaining funds from lending institutions.

Dr. Mackay was at the time addressing the formal commissioning of the new Arima Exchange on Thursday afternoon.

He called on the people of Arima to help Telco put some realism into the criticisms with which the company was faced in the media.

The Executive Director said times were changing dramatically as far as Telco was concerned.

Dr. Mackay promised that within three years, Telco would have, proportionately, more digital technology than any other telephone company in the world. This would create a dramatic improvement in service to subscribers.

Thursday's function was also addressed by Telco's Public Relations Manager, Mr. Neil Giuseppi.

Mr. Giuseppi outlined what he called the dramatic improvements in Telco within the last 12 months.

BEFORE CHRISTMAS

New exchanges have been commissioned at Couva, Piarcu, San Fernando, Chaguanas, Maraval and San Juan, in addition to a new Tandem switch.

He added that the new Diego Martin and St. Augustine Exchanges would be commissioned before Christmas.

Mr. Giuseppi said there was no question that Telco "is on the move," despite what many detractors might say.

The residents of Arima could now testify to the improvement in the general telephone service, he added.

The new Exchange was formally commissioned by Arima Mayor Norman Kistow.

It is an I.T.T. 1210 Stored Programme Exchange, and is the first digital switch ever installed in Trinidad and Tobago.

It's capacity is 4,000 lines, and it replaces a 1,200 line step by step exchange.

'GUARDIAN' PRAISES CHAMBERS FOR CARICOM SUMMIT PERFORMANCE

Port-of-Spain SUNDAY GUARDIAN in English 28 Nov 82 p 3

[Text]

MR. Chambers knew what to do. And he did it!

We are particularly pleased to write these words one week after we queried whether our Prime Minister would be able to do the needful in connection with the 1983 Budget. Only time will tell what fiscal course he will adopt. But insofar as the Caricom conference in Jamaica is concerned, he knew what he had to do, and did it with statesmanlike efficiency, and we are proud of him.

Never let it be said that this column is against giving praise where it is due and that it can only point out the wrongs that need to be put right. The Prime Minister himself noted in an interview in Jamaica that the Press castigates him daily. While we pardon the hyperbole, we defend the right of the Press to complain where complaint is due and necessary. However, we would not wish to be guilty of not acknowledging the good deeds and achievements of those whose positions qualify them for unwavering attention.

In the case of Mr. Chambers's visit to Jamaica, we would be only voicing the strong sentiment of the nation, as well as our considered feelings, in declaring that he did a first-class job.

Using meekness as a most interesting device for influencing opinion, he at first appeared to be reluctant to speak at the opening of the Heads of Government Conference at Ocho Rios whose sun-kissed, wind-swept shores have seen many a famous person, not excluding the former British Prime Minister Sir Anthony Eden.

When Mr. Chambers acceded, he came across with a blend of rhetoric and sincerity that embraced research, knowledge and persuasive intent. And everyone was impressed! Hung-jawed! As if to take a leaf out of Winston Churchill's book, which declared there is nothing as effective as a well-prepared, extemporaneous speech, our Prime Minister produced a work that touched lucidly on all the major issues. Breaches of rules of origin. Unhealthy competition in strategic situations. The global context of rising unemployment. Business failures. Protectionism. Etc. And from the views given by Guardian Reporter Norris Solomon and others, no one failed to be moved by Trinidad and Tobago's cool Prime Minister.

LOSING - OUT

Nor did the impact cease at the peroration but sustained and possibly gained momentum during the three days. For one thing, for the first time there seems to be some measure of accord, if not unified action, on the issue of BWIA. For too long has this reliable carrier been losing-out as a result of a number of unfavourable conditions including lack of reciprocity with respect to landing rights. Now it looks as if Caribbean states with no airline can designate an airline owned by another state in the region to be its national carrier.

The Trinidad/Tobago position was also

strengthened by Mr. Chambers's announcement of continued oil credits to the region. While these would be somewhat reduced in 1983, it is a tremendous gesture and a humanitarian move in the face of tightening world economic conditions. It is too often forgotten or overlooked that in this area of energy credits alone, Trinidad and Tobago has aided the region by more than \$1 billion over the past three years, making us possibly the biggest source of aid to the Caribbean.

We would like to give Mr. Chambers the benefit of the doubts we have concerning his cordial treatment of Mr. Maurice Bishop. But then, if the Pope can receive Yasser Arafat of the PLO, is it unreasonable to talk to Mr. Bishop, even though to the best of our knowledge, Mr. Arafat holds no political prisoners?

If we recall correctly, the Prime Minister held discussions with Mr. Bishop and it would appear that some form of further contact is possible. On the basis of Mr. Chambers's style and timing, it is quite likely that he is slowly gathering his information and in due course will say something with respect to the Grenada imbroglio. But we would have thought that the Caricom Summit on the Jamaica north coast would have been a good occasion to speak generally about human rights. Or to put it in a slightly different way, the human wrongs in the area. Just dealing with them generally would have made the point forcefully to the dictator of the nearby pincushion. Perhaps the matter will be dealt with at

the next Heads of Government Conference which is scheduled for Trinidad. And Mr. Chambers's timing may prove to be correct.

We nevertheless feel that an occasion such as the conference in Jamaica should not have escaped without mentioning the need to correct infringements on human rights in countries in this region, particularly Grenada and Guyana.

It is all well and good for Maurice Bishop "to gallery" and to talk about freeing 28 untried prisoners. But what about the remaining 70 or 80 still locked up in Grenadian cells? Has anyone interviewed anyone of the 28 who allegedly got out and, to ask a question that was raised earlier last week, what is the position with respect to Leslie Pierre, formerly of the "Torchlight"?

GREEDY DESPOT

In Guyana, there is no such thing as freedom of the Press. All freedoms have been throttled by the tentacles of a greedy despot who stops at nothing, including the manipulation of elections, to stay in power.

But one has to live with realities, and here again we would like to give Mr. Chambers the benefit of the doubt in slowly correcting a situation that in his opinion, could result in more problems and confusion if too strongly opposed. But we cannot condone the indignities inflicted on our fellow human beings in these states; and within the parameters of diplomatic languages, the point must be made that breaches need correcting. The alternative is deterioration emboldened by tolerance.

The other question arising out of Mr. Chambers's sterling performance is the future direction of his foreign policy. As he has proven Trinidad and Tobago has an important role to play in the Caribbean and beyond. Now that we have been given this encouragement, this incisive display of diplomatic tact, we understandably expect more. For instance, this column has long advocated the use of asphalt, and asphalt-based road-building products, as a source of diplomatic trade initiative and influence. In much

the same way as we utilise our energy credits, we can make use of our asphalt credit.

LONG-LASTING BENEFITS

What is good about aid packages of asphalt is that the temptation for corruption by any recipient is minimal; the product reaches the desired places, and the benefits are long-lasting in that they help develop areas very much in need of roads. Agreement to allow Haiti observer status at the next Heads of Government Conference could be an opening for helping that very impoverished country benefit from asphalt aid. And there is no doubt that even giant neighbours such as Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay and Argentina would all view gifts of Trinidad and Tobago asphalt as diplomatic initiatives and as opportunities for better trade and relations. Let's face it, we receive many mineral and food imports from these areas and should start looking for "intercambio".

However, we don't want Mr. Chambers to limit his new thrust to the Caribbean or to Latin America. We need closer contact with our principal trading partners in North America and the other side of the Atlantic. It is because we saw these needs arising that this column has steadfastly recommended the use of a national shortwave radio to tell people we want to communicate with them about our culture and ourselves.

But even a shortwave radio or increased landings by BWIA are not enough. This column is in favour of an outward-going, expansionist foreign policy. If Mr. Chambers can gain influence in Jamaica, we feel he can do it in Washington and in Paris. In Bonn, London or Stockholm. What we want are markets and investors so that we in the private sector, whether business, industry or unions, can be partners to our Government's progress. A week ago we said that Mr. Chambers knows what to do but that time alone will tell whether he will do it. We are convinced that he can! Over to you, Sir.

TAPIA HOUSE LEADER BEST ADDRESSES ALLIANCE CONVENTION

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 24, 25, 26 Nov 82

[24 Nov 82 pp 12-14]

[Excerpts] THERE was a time when you could safely affirm that the political season in Trinidad and Tobago lasted no more than the three months from the end of August to the end of November.

From this year onwards, the political season is likely to extend its deadline forever.

And the reason? The reason is that, as we have arrived at this historic Inaugural Convention of the Alliance Party of Parties on this 14th day of November in the Year of Our Lord, 1982, the mood of the multitude of the people has definitely been changing.

The illusions of the good years of economic abundance are rapidly being shattered, even as the frivolity of yesterday is being routinely immortalised and dramatised in "recession sales" in the world of commerce and "recession breakdowns" in the sphere of entertainment.

Yes, the seven good years are over and Trinidad and Tobago is now down to the bump, as the Jamaican grimly puts it. The seven bad years are on us with a vengeance.

Ahead is the prospect of a brutal adjustment to more realistic levels of spending, to more disciplined habits of work and to more practical ways of living.

We are all going to have to put in a greater quota of effort of one kind or another in order to be able to take out any given level of produce, of income or of welfare.

The fact of the matter is that the onset of world recession has been all too brusquely exposing the basic economic problems of our still colonial economy.

Over the past 15-16 years (and possibly 20-22 years even), we have systematically avoided most of the ugly options, be it Chaguaramas, Federation,

morality in public, sustained and comprehensive national economic planning, or the reform of local government; the servicing of the Caribbean Economic Community; the discussion of ethnic jealousy and rivalry at home.

The facing of the difficulties experienced by the Afro-Trinidadian in getting into successful business; the acknowledgement of the fears of the Indo-Trinidadian that in a hostile Western environment, his culture might be devastated and lost;

Trinidad and Tobago has, since the turn of the century, been favoured with relatively prosperous cash crops or staple exports: sugar, cocoa and oil.

And then, at the end of 1973, oil, which used even in the 1960s to bring us Government revenue equal to Jamaica's with only half Jamaica's population, ceased to be a mere prosperous cash staple and became instead a goose that laid the golden egg.

But now, suddenly, the onset of falling output in oil and softening prices too have advanced some awkward issues.

1. Without the flood of petro-dollars can we hope to feed ourselves? If we did not have \$1 billion to spend annually on imports of food, would we be able to sustain the bright lights on the street corners with all those outlets for fish and chicken and burgers? The answer, it seems, is no.

2. Without the flood of petro-dollars would we be able to clothe our naked selves with Calvin Klein and Lee Cooper? Since we do not produce any raw materials for the clothing industry, our only conceivable advantage has lain in the domain of not so expensive labour.

But now suddenly, the shortage of cash and the advance of new garment-making technology in South East Asian countries may squeeze us even out of our own domestic market.

The only way we can survive is by protecting an industry geared to low wages low productivity and imported materials, too; and which, therefore, may be negative from every point of view.

3. Without the flood of petro-dollars to import equipment and materials and even to import equipment and materials and even to import professionals and technicians, is there any persuasive evidence that we have what it takes to be able to house our people:

Is the average home-seeker able to cope with prices and interest rates that are rising too fast along with incomes that are rising too slow and building materials that keep slipping through the fingers?

4. Are we able to transport ourselves now that we have been completing a number of modern highways and now that we have recently installed the capacity to produce 12,000 cars a year? Suppose there were to be a 25% fall in our earnings of petro-dollars, would we be able to afford the completely knocked down (CKD) crates of cars?

Would we be able to import the parts even, for the repairs of our second-hand vehicles? And if we did not have cars enough for H's and P's, would there be a sufficient number of buses?

And if we did have the cars, would we be able to afford the heavy equipment to keep on building and maintaining a sufficient mileage of road?

5. Without a flood of petro-dollars, would we be able to transform the public utilities: the telephones, the electricity supply, the water and sewerage system, the air-travel arrangements? How much more capital is needed to make these utilities fully viable?

If we did not have elevated revenues from oil, would we be able to borrow the overseas capital markets for statutory corporations with a track-record such as that of TELCO and T&TEC and WASA?

And if no, would the development programmes of these utilities be simply stalled in mid-air? And then what?

6. Without the flood of petro-dollars, would we be able to sustain the welfare services in sport and health and education? If services in education, for example, had perforce to be cut, what would be the first to go? The book and uniform grants?

The Security Services? The Junior Sec. Programme to eliminate the system of shifts? If the programme in health had to be cut, would the Mount Hope Complex be halted in the middle, as has been the equipping of the Open-Heart Surgery Facility at the Caura Sanitarium?

7. Without the flood of petro-dollars, would we be able to sustain a decent level of employment? Would the car-plants stay open? Would people eat out on the scale that they are doing now?

If no, what would happen to the vast multitude of restaurants and fast-food outlets which must have accounted for a considerable amount of our new employment?

Lower Revenues

And what would the impact be of lower revenues on jobs in the public service? Would there be fewer 10-day opportunities?

7. Would the work be spread around by reverting to five-day cycles? Or would it be three-day cycles? or what? Would young people be recruited to agriculture?

Or to the Army and the Police, in order to meet the demand for more peace-keeping and more law and order, under conditions of economic hardship, growing social strife, and mounting political protest?

The first issue then, under conditions of impending recession, is whether Trinidad and Tobago enjoys even the minimum of material resources necessary to cater for the basic needs of the population when the flow of money slows down to crisis levels.

Or is it that we have frittered away too many valuable resources on sheer guabin and grog?

Have there not been too wide a distribution of largesse on patronage and on corruption, too extensive an attention to prestige projects and too little concern for productive investment?

Have there not been too many projects all at once, too much industry and too little agriculture? Too much assembly and too little production too much dependence and too little dynamism, too much activity aimed at protected home markets and not enough production directed at export earnings?

These are urgent public questions which require urgent public answers. All the indications are that the economy has long ago been needing a comprehensive overhaul. Caroni obviously has got to be made the hub of a vibrant food-producing industry; the youth must be inspired to return to work on the land.

The whole regime of ownership, control, management, technology and organisation needs to be adapted to the objective of greater self-reliance as well as greater dynamism in selling goods abroad.

The whole structure of investment, production, consumption, banking, insurance, national insurance, etc., is crying out to be altered to the needs of a people independent, responsible and free

Political Question

But now that the recession is here and we can no longer postpone those urgently necessary adjustments, there arises a political question. Who will intervene to rescue Trinidad and Tobago? Can the Government intervene?

Is there any kind of momentum to be discerned inside the ruling party? Is it possible to perceive a single individual in the ranks of Government with the penetration, with the authority, with the will and the wit and the skill to initiate a new departure?

Can anybody in the present Administration organise a dance?

We know that there must exist some individuals of goodwill, of professional competence and of personal integrity on the official benches of Parliament.

But are they in any position to make the needed difference? Have they incurred the political costs that are necessary to be able to stand fearlessly up and speak? Or to stand boldly up to act?

I stand in my shoes and wonder. I look at the statecraft which is on display in the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament. The Parliamentary Calendar

befuddles me; there seems to be no programming, no sequencing of the flow of needed legislation.

When legislation does come, it lacks thought and it lacks finish. The Rent Bill was a minor scandal; while the Tobago Bill revealed a level of political ineptitude that was remarkable even for a Government that had in the first place passed that incredible Act of 1980.

All the indications are that Parliament continues to be a footnote to the Cabinet. The concept of staffing is an abomination; Committee life is all but absent. The Library is not even worthy of a decent private collection and the whole concept of an assembly of valid community representatives, equipped to meet in a responsible way so as to undertake informed discussion of real problems, is totally absent from anything that goes on sporadically in the Red House--in between the Prime Minister's tours, or his trips abroad, or his Consultations or whatever.

Incantations

In short, Parliamentary life in Trinidad and Tobago would long ago have been dead, were it not for the Parliamentary Party of the Opposition, the vibrant and competent Parliamentary Party installed there by the Alliance Party of parties.

What indications are there anywhere on the horizon that this present Government of Trinidad and Tobago is in any position to govern? Take foreign policy and hear only the inane incantations about non-intervention and non-interference.

Hear these inanities, hear this lifeless doctrine, even while the Venezuelans are planning to gobble up Guyana, even while the whole West Indies has been drifting from pillar to post, with not even the petroleum market organised for any serious purpose, even though the petroleum market of the West Indies should be the bread and butter of Trinidad and Tobago.

Pay attention to the Public Enterprises and the Great Departments of State and notice only disorder. What patterns of management and administration have been emerging to subdue that vast empire of problems that we have inherited or created at Caroni and Orange Grove?

At ISCOTT and TRINTOC and the feed mill and the flour mill and the huge number of enterprises that comprise the public sector?

Where are the regular accounts of such important public business? Where is the flow of validated and authenticated information? What is the situation with ISCOTT?

Do we have anything but whispers and leaks and zeppo? Has there been any submission to the Public Enterprises Committee, as is required by the law and by the constitutional provisions for parliamentary accountability?

New Regime

Turn now to Local Government. Is there any new regime for the Village Councils? Or will they continue to be informal party groups? Are the County Councils functioning? Do they fit into some workable new scheme of devolution and and/or decentralisation?

Is the Tobago House of assembly a special case? Do the principles behind it have any implications for other levels of Government? Who is working on these vital questions? OR are we waiting for Cedros and Matelot to come to town again heralding a nationwide upheaval as they did last time when they arrived in Port-of-Spain in the early 1970s.

In short, is there any straw in the wind? A few brief weeks ago, it seemed as if the regime of public broadcasting may effectively open up. And perhaps the new Chairman of the Board of TTT and the Minister of State Enterprises may have in mind a new dispensation and a more liberal one besides.

But are they able to afford it? Can they contain the contradictions of a party and a Government which can evoke no responsible and patriotic response from the people?

[25 Nov 82 pp 12, 16]

[Excerpts] Will the authorities always have to walk into TTT and dictate the rescheduling of football broadcasts or summarily curtail the exposure accorded to this Education Officer or that political spokesman?

If yes, what what does it hold in store for democratic and open administration? Where, oh, where, will arbitrary interventions end?

Will they not end in fact, under conditions of scarcity and shortage, with a regime based on terror, intimidation and violence even as survival has been based, under conditions of affluence, on corruption, bribery and patronage?

When we survey the scene even casually, is there any ground for optimism? The Government of the day seems not only dangerously innocent of the issues involved in statecraft, in the circumstances of present-day Trinidad and Tobago; it is also largely devoid of the resources needed to make any meaningful intervention.

The Prime Minister has been brought up on the petty politics of the Better Village contest, the Development and Environmental Works Division, the Village Council Programmes and such important electioneering agencies; not at all to be sneezed at by a serious political party.

Settlement

By now we should have had the right to a settlement of the DC-9 pay-off; but that is one right they have definitely put wrong.

By now we should have had the right to a full account of the circumstances under which the last Prime Minister died; but that is another right which they have brazenly put wrong.

By now we should have had action, one way or the other, on the Sam P. Wallace transactions; but that is the third right which they have coolly put wrong.

But three wrongs do not make a right. What they make is a case for a right of way--a right of way for an alternative ruling party.

So the case for a national party is a very straightforward one. The present Government simply is unable to govern and it has not been able to govern for more than 15 years. In fact, it mis-governed us to the brink of revolutionary upheaval in the early 1970s, after it had frittered away the first oil bonanza of the late 1950s and the early 1960s.

And now it is once again mis-governing us into possibly irrevocable and irretrievable economic ruin, and with that, into a Latin American syndrome of permanent upheaval and revolution, having the second time round blown the possibilities with which Providence had endowed us by way of the petro-dollar windfall.

The present Government is governing us to revolution over and over. And yet, absurdly, we have been electing the present Government to office over and over. In 1966, in 1971, in 1976 and 1981.

So what is facing Trinidad and Tobago is not any electoral crisis or any recession crisis or even any routine political crisis. What is facing us in Trinidad and Tobago is a revolutionary crisis of colossal proportions.

Inept

When the ruling party is so ruinously incompetent that even electricity and water and telephones do not work, and yet repeated elections do not substitute another ruling party, then what is on your hands is not an electoral crisis or a political crisis or an economic crisis.

What is on your hand is nothing short of a constitutional crisis involving the very make-up of society and State. The revolutionary crisis inevitably is a constitutional crisis dictating an imaginative reordering of the parts in the whole.

That is what we have concluded in Trinidad and Tobago over many long seasons of frustration and futility.

For years we dabbled with all manner of tinkerings and adjustments. We fought for the recall of the voting machines; we advocated the introduction of Proportional Representation; we agitated in the public place and the People's Parliament for power to the people;

We formed parties and we unformed parties in every kind of combinations and permutation. But try as we would, we failed signally to dislodge the old regime with its comprehensive incompetence seemingly implanted forever and ever.

And so it was that in 1980, we finally arrived at the need for a party of parties. Before that, we had been learning and discovering by trial and error.

So all along over the years, ever since the PDP of Mr. Bhadase Maraj and the POPPG of Western St. George had attempted in a rudimentary way to establish some nationwide framework, we have been groping towards some form of revolutionary constitutional reformation of interests in order to come to grips with the peculiar political circumstances of Trinidad and Tobago.

The absurd results of the 1976 elections led us to see that Trinidad and Tobago was in trouble not because of any special magic possessed by the ruling party and its leaders, nor because of any special incompetence on the part of the Opposition parties and their leaders, but because the tribal cross-currents of a mixed political community determined that, at the eleventh hour, some apparently irrational ethnic chemistry always virtually dictated the voting behaviour.

The complexity of the choices was such that the only reasonable and rational option perceived by the people was to fall back on the simplest tribal solutions; over and over we would abandon our heads and vote with our hearts.

At least the base of all this were nine ethnic groups, all doing their own thing. At the bottom of all this were four centres of political gravity, each providing a basis for political organisation.

At the back of all this were two big voting constituencies which, whatever else happened, always remained at the centre of that politics of coalition which alone could work under the prevailing circumstances of maddening fragmentation.

THE NINE ETHNIC GROUPS:

1. The Afro-Saxon Community of the East-West Corridor, brought up on College Exhibition education and Christian churching.
2. The Garveyite Black Power community, occupying the fringers of Afro-Saxon society in Port-of-Spain, drawn to low church cum Shango religion, largely excluded by economic circumstances from the College Exhibition education, and conscious of a distinct class difference between itself and the Afro-Saxon mainstream, even though accidents of income or education could transport the odd individual into the higher ranks of society.
3. The "Grenadian" working class in the oilfields whose natural leaders were Butler and Alexis. A classic European Marxist proletariat, they had nothing to sell but their labour to the multinational corporations such as Shell, Texaco and BP.

4. The Tobagonians whose leader in the 1950s had been A.P.T. James and who had always been conscious of a different set of habits and perspectives from either the Grenadian or the Garveyite or the Afro-Saxon.

5. The Hindu in Caroni was concentrated in the rural areas but not like the Tobagonian in small scale agriculture. Like the Grenadian in the oilfield he, too, was a proletarian on the sugar plantation but while he sold his labour, he also had a certain relation to land and to some of the disciplines of small-scale agriculture.

6. The Muslims, though Indian by race and Oriental by origin, moved comparatively easily into the urban heartlands occupied by the Afro-Saxon.

7. The Presbyterians, even more than the Muslims, have functioned as a part of the Afro-Saxon community because they had made a deliberate decision to join the mainstream of College Exhibition education and Christian churching in order to enjoy the fruits of what, under colonial conditions, was regarded as the most valid and legitimate segment of the society and which, on grounds of its cultural "fitness to rule," was the most likely to succeed to the positions occupied by the colonising British elites, whenever and wherever more independence and self-government were conceded.

8. The last of the ethnic groups is composed of the small white and off-white minorities, operating on the fringe of British Administration, enjoying influence on grounds of their high colour and their prestigious origin outside of the subservient slave and indenture areas of Africa and India.

The weakness of this group has been that it has lacked the weight of numbers enjoyed by the Afro-Saxons and the Hindus; it has never acquired the habits of responsibility of a class with power as distinct from a class with only influence; and yet, because of its easy and ready influence on the British coloniser, it never acquired the drive to education and competence so central to the psychology of the Tobagonian, the Presbyterian and the Afro-Saxon.

9. Finally, in Trinidad and Tobago, there is the group which does not easily fit into any of the ethnic or tribal interests. It is a group of (post-war) nationalist or (pre-war) internationalist intellectuals.

The only popular base for this group lies among those displaced individuals whose mixed cultural exposure abroad, mixed race, mixed ethnic origin or mixed marriages, place awkward hurdles in the way of any easy association with ethnic politics.

Any party representing this group will at one and the same time enjoy the richest promise of support from all the other groups.

But when the chips are down and the ethnic chemistry takes over at the eleventh hour, it is likely to draw the least significant number of actual ballots.

This group, is, therefore, the natural centre of a party of parties not because of any special gifts, or any special altruism, or any special patriotism but because, like all the other valid ethnic interests, it possesses a defined relation to a politics which is ethnically based though in the happily positive sense that its electoral future depends on the annihilation of ethnic divisions and on the promotion of progressively more harmonious cross-fertilisation between the cultures that make up Trinidad and Tobago.

Against this background it is possible to see why the politics of Trinidad and Tobago has been a politics of shifting coalitions over the years, ever since the onset of party politics in the middle 1950s. The Afro-Saxons of the East-West Corridor and the Hindus of Caroni, as the two big voting blocks, by virtue of their numbers (about 35% each) are the natural centres of gravity.

The Tobagonians by virtue of their insular condition and their physical separation have formed another centre of gravity; as have the French Creoles, by virtue of their prized class and colour status, in a colonial and continuing colonial situation.

In 1956, the Afro-Saxons won the elections but not with so much help from the Tobagonians who voted A.P.T. James, or the Grenadians who voted for Butler and Alexis, or the Black Power Garveyites who largely abstained. The National Movement was at first mainly a movement of the educated intermediate black classes and the aspiring upper-lower orders.

It was only after it won control of Government and the State that it forged working coalitions with the Garveyites, Tobago, the oil belt, and the Muslims. However, the Presbyterians in San Fernando, right from the start, led by Winston Mahabir, were part of the Movement.

Almost automatically thereafter, the French Creoles, including the high income and the high status professional blacks who were less Afro and more Saxon, made a coalition with the Hindus of Caroni to form the DLP.

[26 Nov 82 p 12]

[Excerpts] The rest of the story is now well-known--including the fact that, for all the attempts at coalitions over the quarter century, the nine ethnic communities are today all still clearly discernible as are the four political centres of gravity. Such is the measure of the failure of the National Movement.

So there we have the reasons why the ruling party has survived in office for six elections. As the Party of the State, it has been able to sustain an unstable but workable coalition of forces through the distribution of patronage, the control of publicity and the dispa[y] of police power.

It has been able also to allow the electoral system in both its structure and its administration to operate in a way that favours the objectives of the incumbents.

Moreover, it has been able to effect formal constitutional changes such as the re-design of the Senate to ensure that the weaknesses of the elected party could be corrected for by nominated appointments.

It has invented Meet the People Tours to substitute for the party, National Consultations to substitute for Parliament, Task Forces to substitute for the Executive and for the normal Civil Service Administration, and Village Councils to subvert the County Councils.

And yet, all of these informal adjustments are only a part of a gigantic informal re-constitution of the State calculated to make survival in office possible in spite of the fact that the coalition which constitutes the National Movement of the 1950s has long ceased to be either relevant in politics, productive in Government, or effective in administration.

Alternative

The question of 1981 was whether we of the Opposition could produce a meaningful alternative to the party of the State by constructing a Party of parties to represent the community.

A party mature enough to find the necessary coherence, one wise enough to offer the proper guarantees to all the various ethnic and political interests, one willing and able to put effective machinery in place across the constituencies and to elect the right leader by the right process so that not only our own rank and file but also the general public would have been able to trust the outcome and to take the risks involved in voting for the Alliance.

The answer to that question we can now see in retrospect by examining the results of the polling. But the vast potentials and possibilities of the situation in 1981 were also to be witnessed in the response which we got when, in October, after so much hesitation and so much reservation, we finally launched the most important political formation that has ever graced the scene in Trinidad and Tobago.

The lessons to be learnt from that record of only half-hearted integration of the three parties is that we of the Alliance have almost all the trumps in the present game of power and politics in Trinidad and Tobago.

We have nearly all the trumps; we are superior to every other party in our command of the problem, in the spread of our national support as in our skill both in intra-Parliamentary debate and extra-Parliamentary agitation.

We also enjoy as unprecedented moral authority because of the frank, honest, patient and perhaps even noble way we have gone about building for our country a fresh opportunity, because of the endeavours we have exercised on behalf of national unification, and on account of the initiatives we are prepared now to take in order to widen and to deepen our Alliance so that, when the bell rings, and when we are summoned once more into the lists of history for battle with the enemy for an alternative future for Trinidad, Tobago and the West Indies, we of the Party of parties will be in the position to offer

the electorate one united, effective, solid and indeed impregnable Government Party;

And so there is a resolution that we all must make and it reads as follows:

VALID ACCOUNT

RESOLUTION: WHEREAS the foregoing is a true honest and valid account of our condition and worthy of being believed by all patriotic citizens of Trinidad and Tobago,

BE IT RESOLVED that this inaugural convention of the Alliance Party of parties be the initiation of the final stage in the formation of one single united party that will triumph over all comers, will endure, and will sustain its elevated endeavours for national unity and national advancement, so that the generations still to come will be able to say of this November Sunday that it marked an unforgettable red-letter day in the annals of Trinidad, Tobago and the West Indies.

CSO: 3298/216

BRIEFS

BAN ON 'MOONIES'--THE TRINIDAD and Tobago Government has virtually put a ban on any conference of the Moonies to be held in this country. According to a release from the Ministry of Information, the Ministry of National Security has advised that the Government has given no approval for any individual or organisation to hold a conference of the Moonies in Trinidad and Tobago. No visas have been issued, added the release, neither will any be issued to any person visiting Trinidad and Tobago for the purpose of the conference. Any visitor coming into the country for the purpose of the conference, the release stated, will not be admitted. Reservations were made for 290 persons, largely members of the church. A total of 125 rooms at the Hilton were booked, plus all of Hilton's private rooms--Blue Emperor, Scarlet Ibis, and Humming Bird--as well as a number of conference suites. The "Guardian" understood that the group has already paid the Hilton more than (US) \$50,000 for the six-day conference. On the basis of Government's release issued yesterday, however, some queries were raised relating to the question of visas being issued. It is known that there are reciprocal visa arrangements between the U.S. and Trinidad and Tobago. As a result U.S. citizens can visit Trinidad and Tobago for short periods without a visa. A query was also posed about the question of religion--one of the enshrined rights in the Trinidad and Tobago Constitution. The Government release did not state specifically on what grounds the Moonies would not be permitted entry. [Excerpts] [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 26 Nov 82 p 1]

46-PERCENT PAY HIKE--MORE than 300 employees of Trinidad Contractors Limited (TCL) will benefit from a new three-year agreement reached at the Ministry of Labour Tuesday with the Oilfields Workers Trade Union (OWTU). The agreement came during a meeting chaired by Labour Minister Errol Mahabir, who met the parties following informal requests for his intervention by both sides. The accord gives the workers a 46 per cent wage hike (25-11-10) and other improved benefits. Representing TCL were Administrative Manager Josh Henry and Personnel Manager Verne Edwards. For the OWTU were First Vice-President Errol McLeod and Labour Relations Officer Bennet Berkeley. It is understood that the new salary rates will be implemented immediately. [Text] [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 25 Nov 82 p 24]

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Feb 16, 1983